



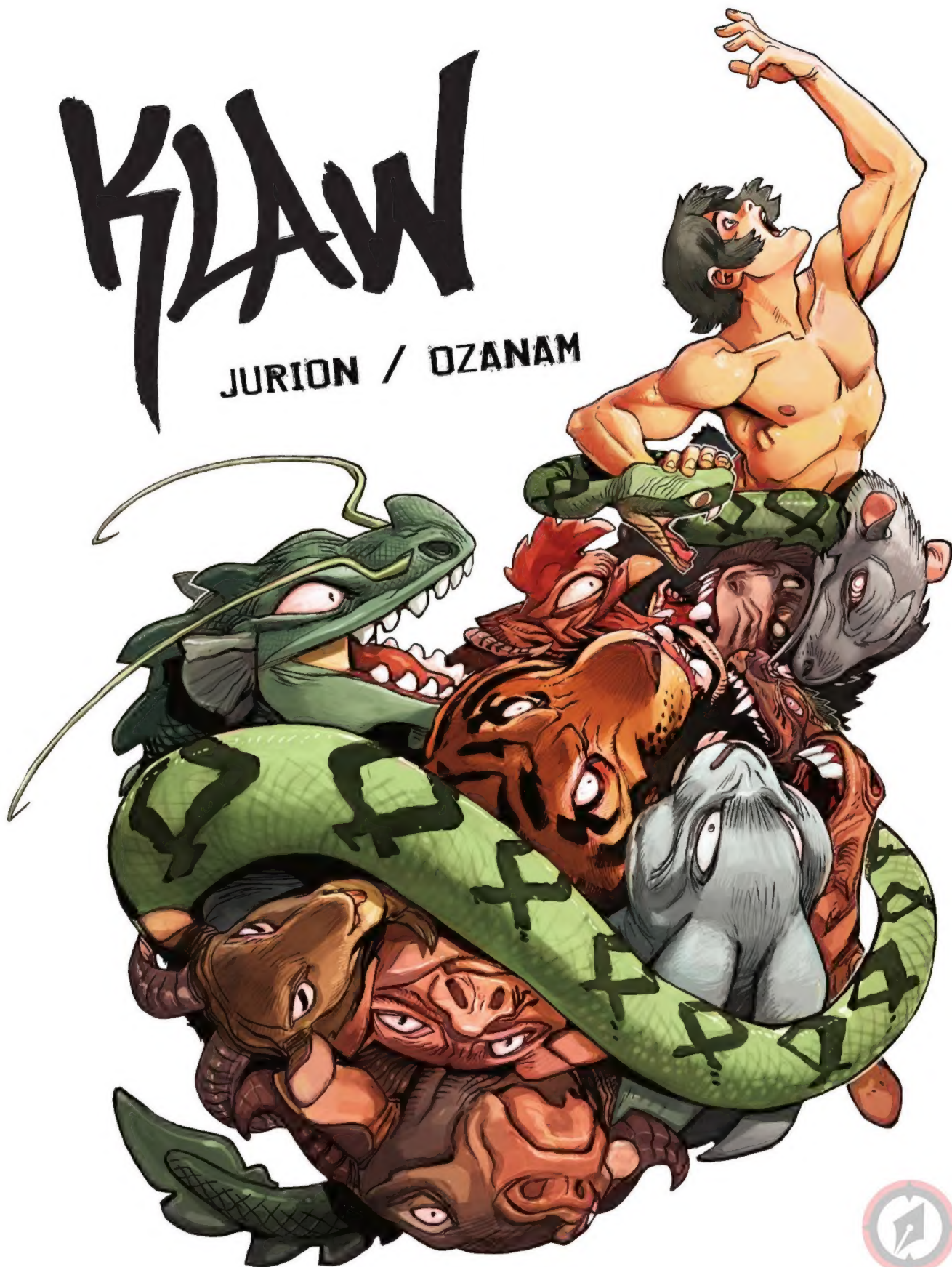
KRAW

THE SECOND CYCLE

JURION / OZANAM

KLAW

JURION / OZANAM



KLAW

THE SECOND CYCLE

WRITTEN BY
OZANAM

ILLUSTRATED BY
JOËL JURION

COLORED BY
YOANN GUILLÉ

TRANSLATION BY JEREMY MELLOUL
EDITING, LOCALIZATION, AND LAYOUT BY MIKE KENNEDY

KLAW: THE SECOND CYCLE

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Rupture. | Ozanam, Antoine, 1970- Monkey. | Ozanam, Antoine, 1970- Oubliés.
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Other Titles: Klaw. English
Description: [English language edition]. | St. Louis, MO : Roar, an imprint of The Lion Forge, LLC, 2017. | Translation from the French. | Originally published individually in French as: Klaw. Volume 4, Rupture; Klaw. Volume 5, Monkey; and Klaw. Volume 6, Les oubliés. | "Published as part of the Magnetic Collection ... "-Title page verso. | Interest age level: 13 and up. | Summary: "Following the events in Chicago (in vol. 1), Angel and Lisa travel to the outskirts of Shanghai, where Angel struggles to contain his gnawing thirst to absorb the Dhizi Dragon spirit currently hiding inside his own girlfriend. But things get even more complicated when they discover other new Dhizi warriors on their trail after the same thing ... including a gathering of ancient spirits hellbent on destroying the 'new generation' ..."- Provided by publisher.
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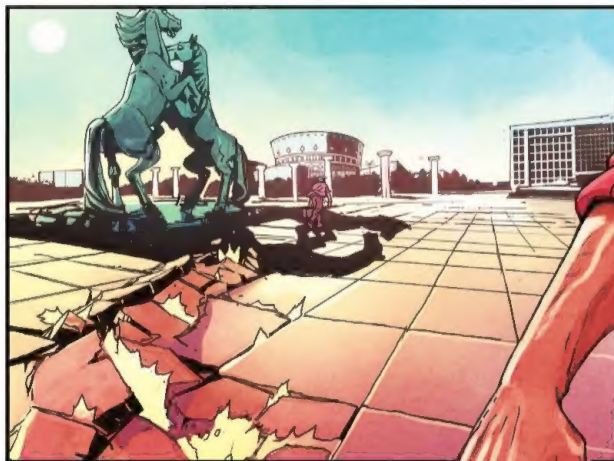
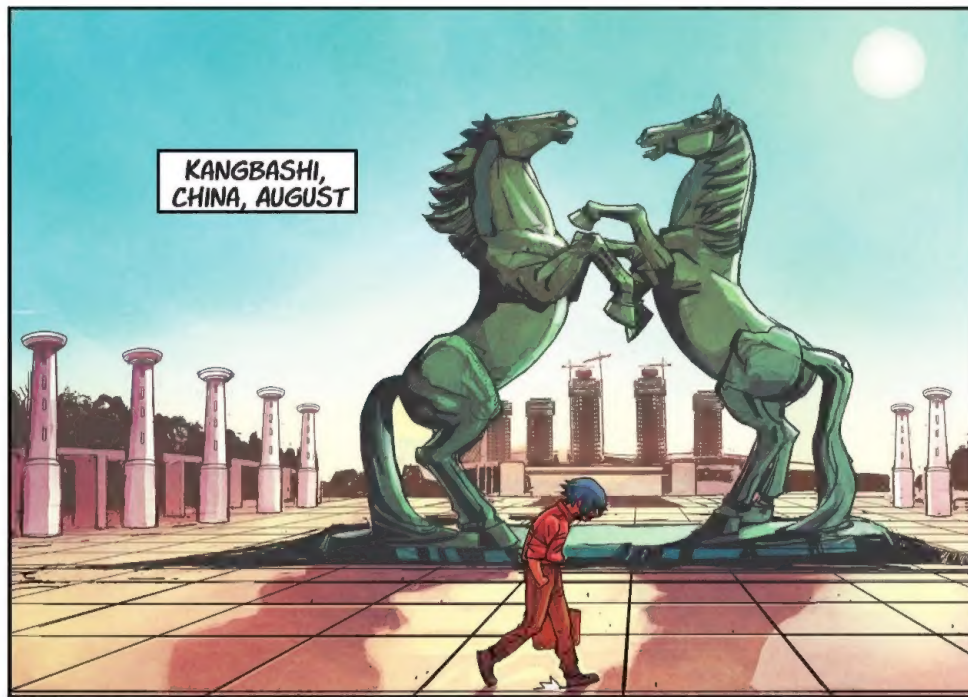


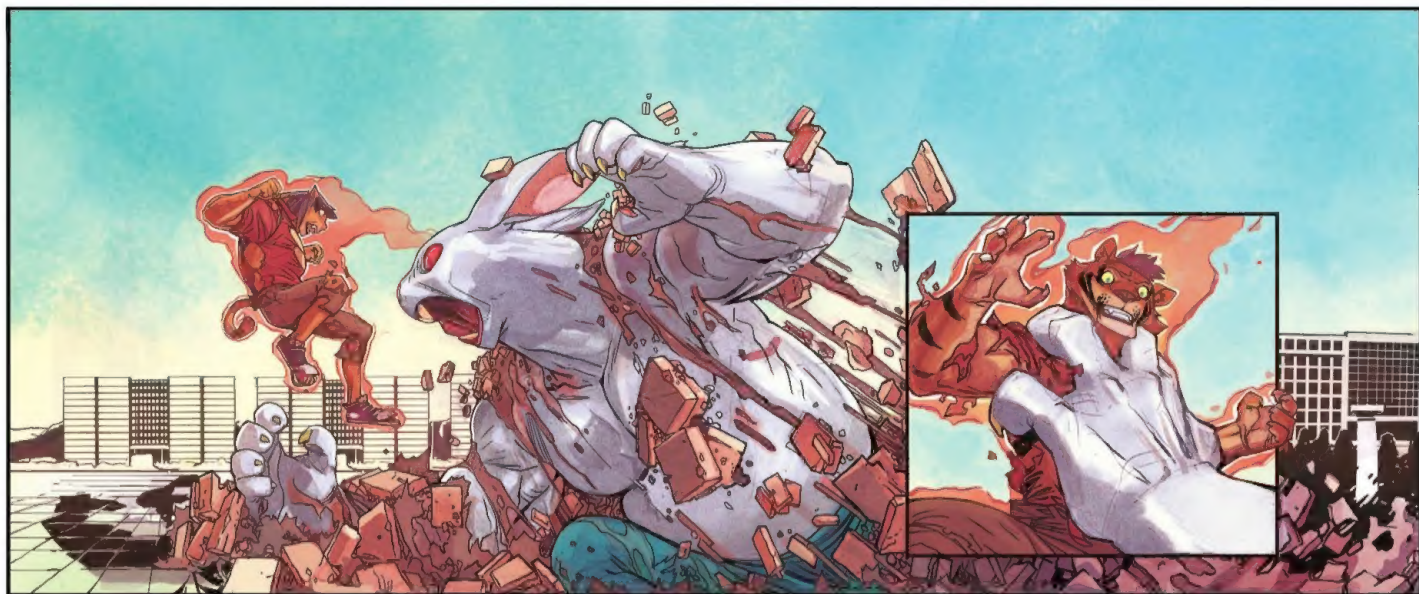


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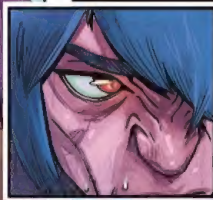
PART FOUR: RUPTURE



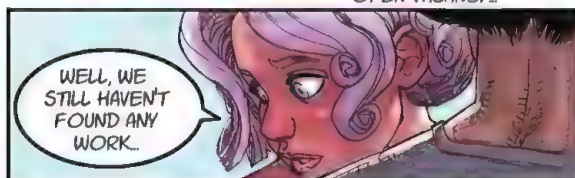
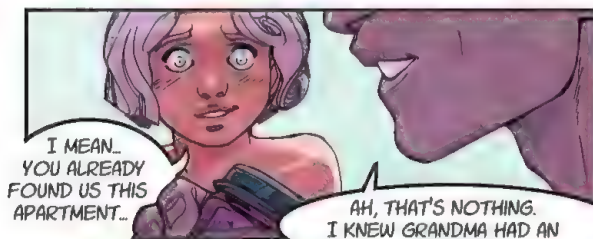
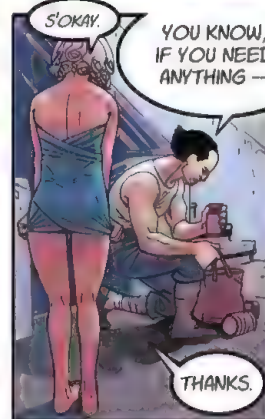
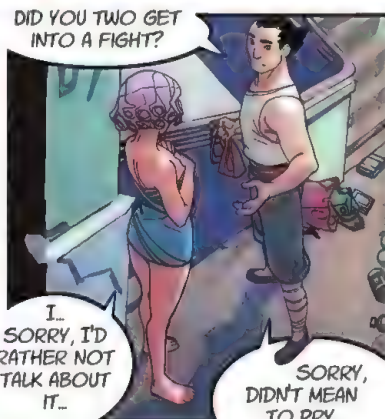
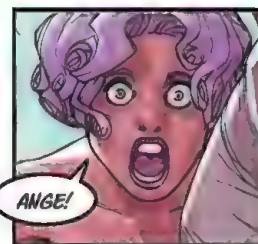
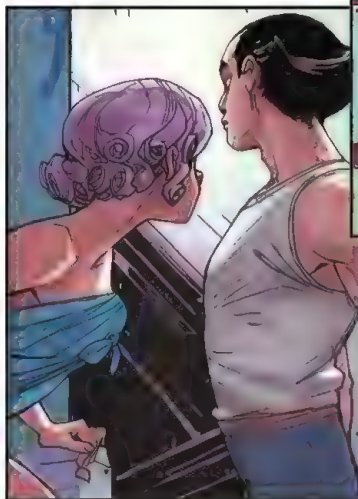


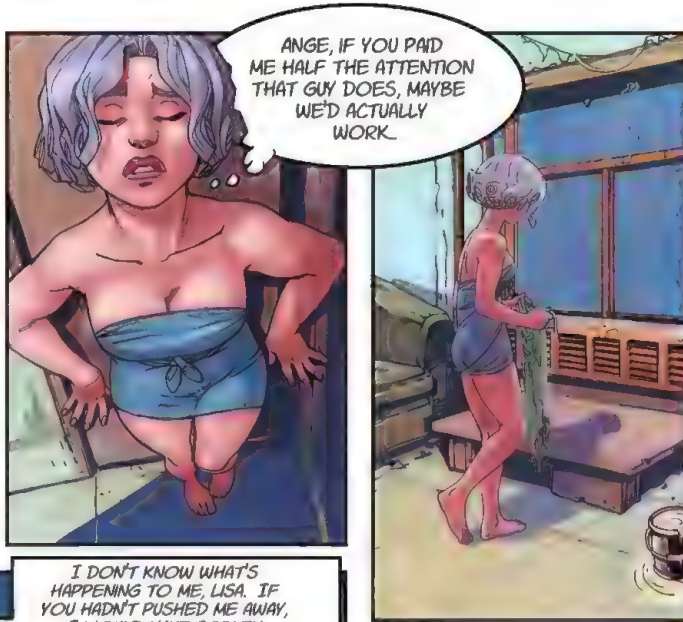
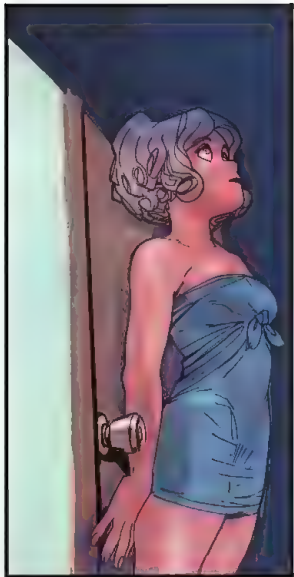




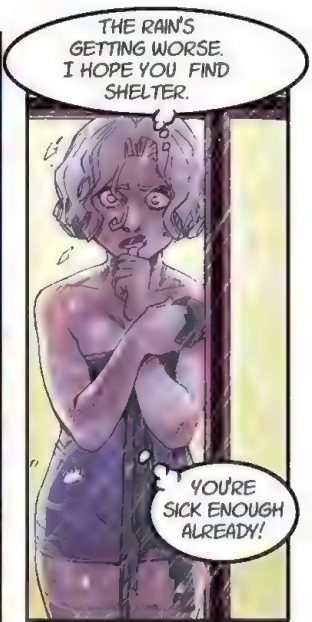






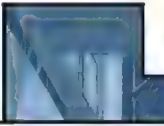


ANGE, IF YOU PAID ME HALF THE ATTENTION THAT GUY DOES, MAYBE WE'D ACTUALLY WORK.



THE RAIN'S GETTING WORSE. I HOPE YOU FIND SHELTER.

YOU'RE SICK ENOUGH ALREADY!

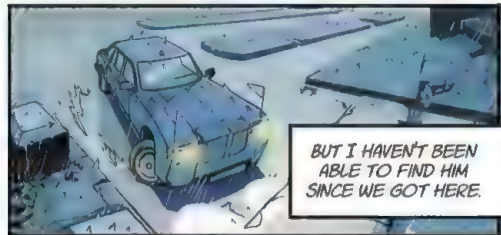


I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME, LISA. IF YOU HADN'T PUSHED ME AWAY, I WOULD HAVE STOLEN YOUR POWER.



IT HURTS SO MUCH. ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY TO EASE THE PAIN?

I HAVE TO FIND THE RABBIT. IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO GET SORTED OUT, SO THAT LISA IS SAFE AGAIN..



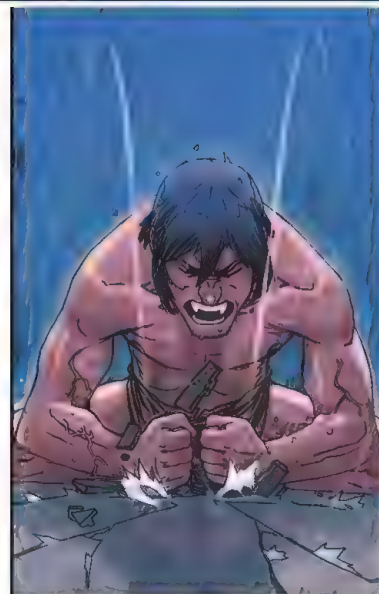
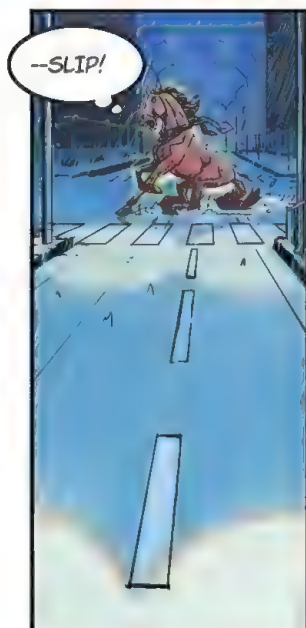
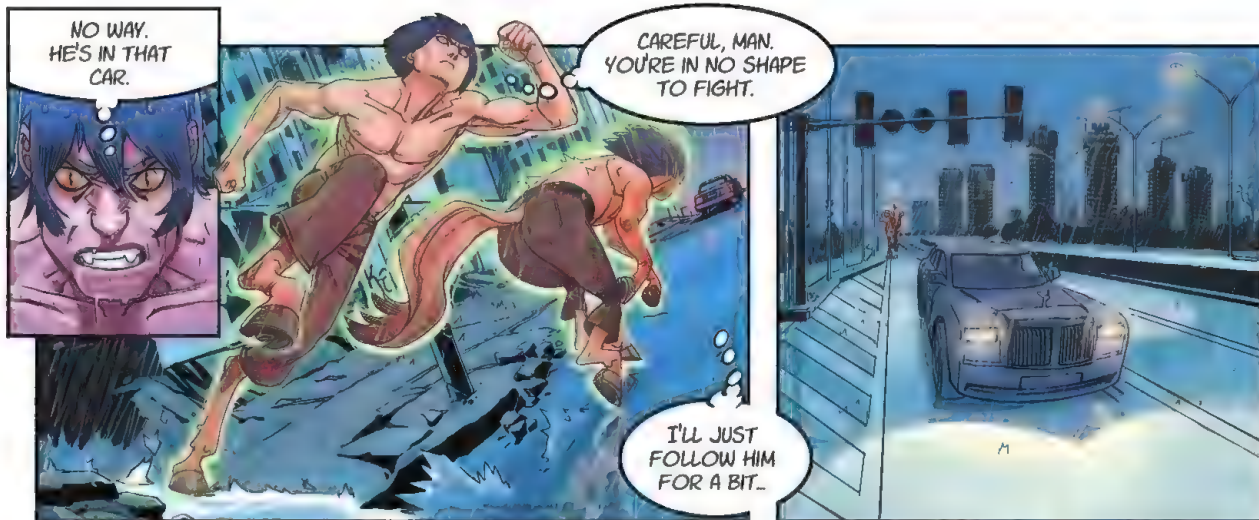
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM SINCE WE GOT HERE.

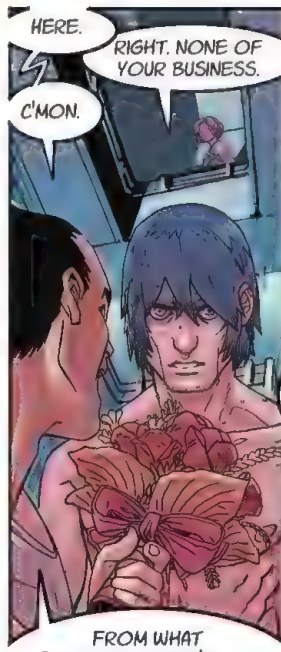
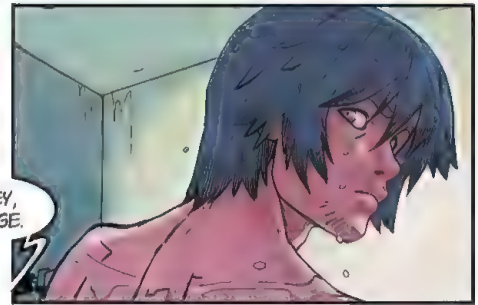
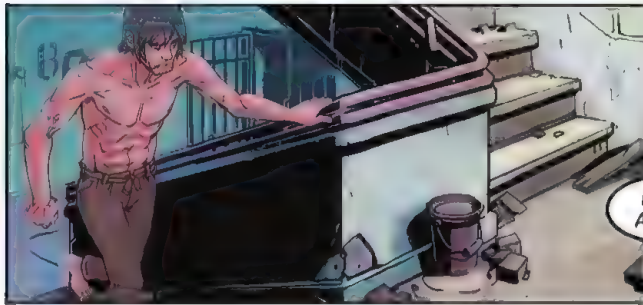
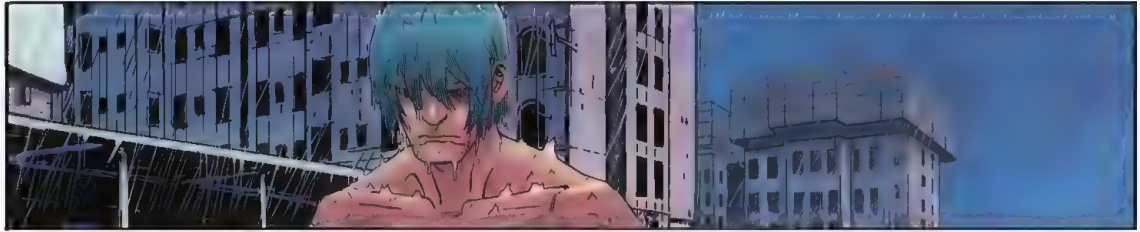


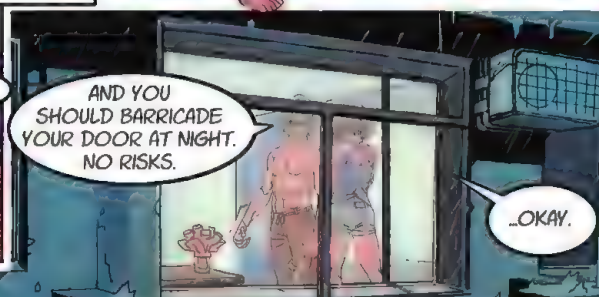
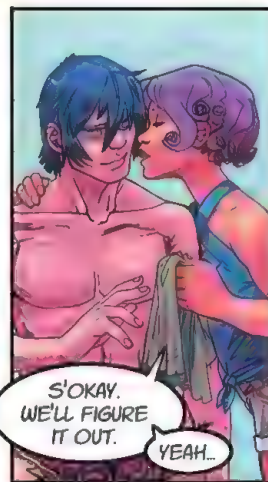
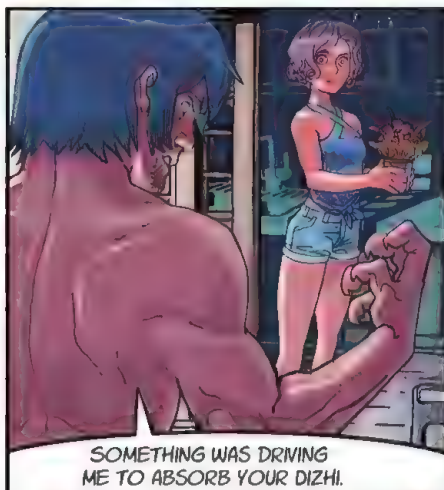
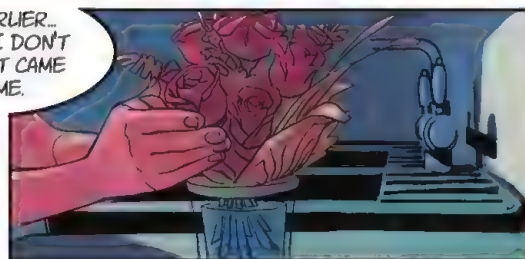
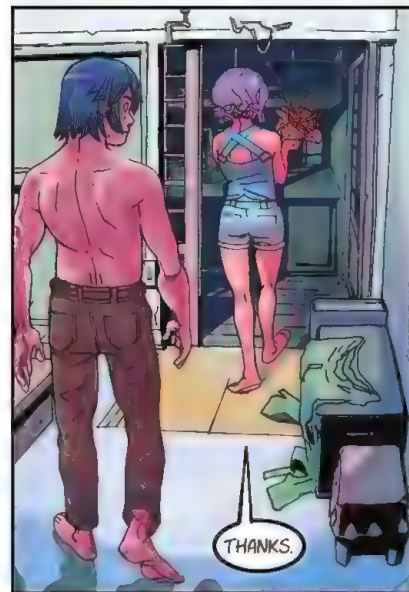
HE'S HERE, I CAN FEEL IT. BUT HE GETS AWAY EVERY TIME..

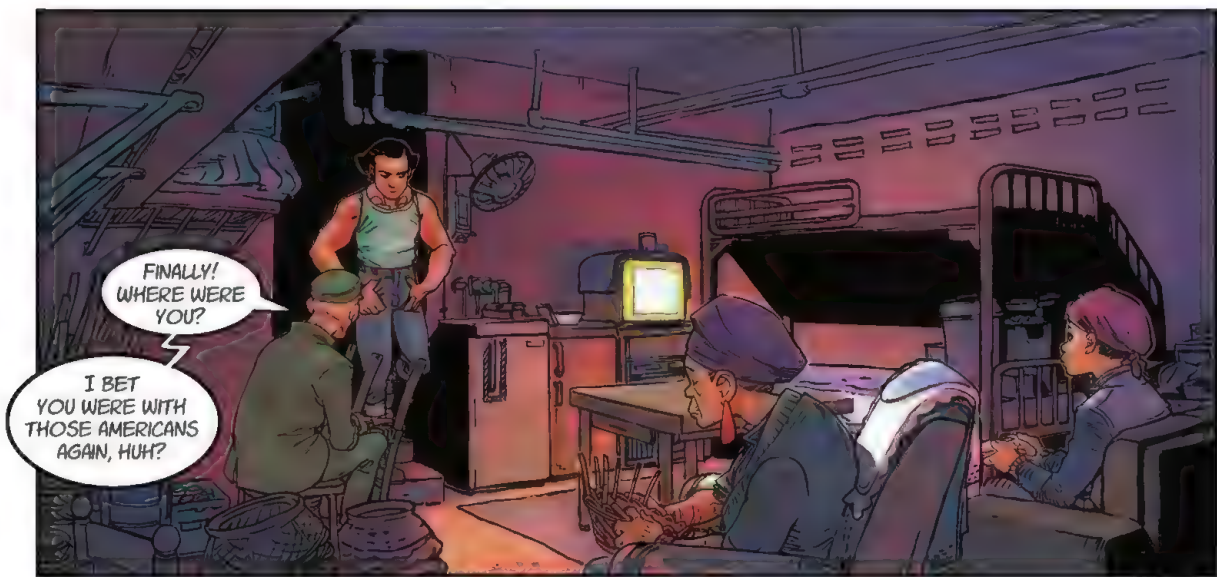


IT WOULD TAKE A MIRACLE...?!









FINALLY!
WHERE WERE
YOU?

I BET
YOU WERE WITH
THOSE AMERICANS
AGAIN, HUH?



DID YOU
GET THE RENT
MONEY FROM
THEM YET?



I TOLD YOU
THEY DON'T HAVE IT!



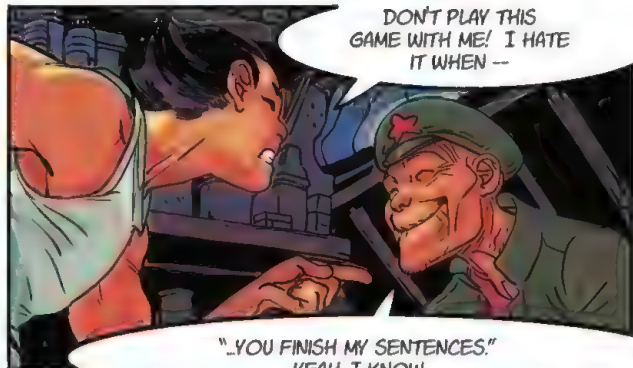
AND I TOLD
YOU THIS ISN'T
A CHARITY!

THEY EITHER
PAY OR THEY GET
LOST!



THIS ISN'T
YOUR BUILDING!
YOU'RE NOT --

"...NOT MY GRANDFATHER." I KNOW,
BUT I'M STILL MALANA'S HUSBAND, WHICH MAKES
ME THE MANAGER.

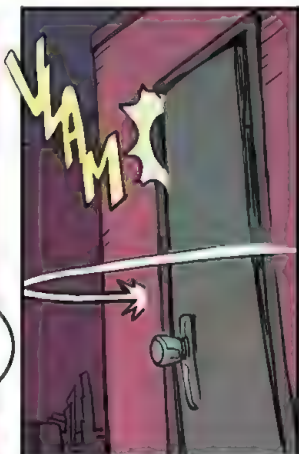


DON'T PLAY THIS
GAME WITH ME! I HATE
IT WHEN --

"...YOU FINISH MY SENTENCES."
YEAH, I KNOW.



AHHH!
MAE YA, YOU
EXPLAIN IT TO
HIM. I'M DONE.





PALANI,
PLEASE...

I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE GONNA SAY,
MALANA. AND I AGREE.

BUT A LITTLE EXTRA CASH
WOULDN'T HAVE HURT.



CAREFUL,
VICTORIA!
YOU'RE
NEXT!

HUH?



AH!

VICKY! THE
TRASH ISN'T GOING
TO TAKE ITSELF
OUT!



MAN, HE'S
GOING CRAZY
TONIGHT!

HE'S THE
ONLY GUY I KNOW
WHO GETS MORE GRUMPY
WHEN HE'S IN LOVE...



OH? YOU KNOW
SOMETHING ABOUT
BEING IN LOVE?

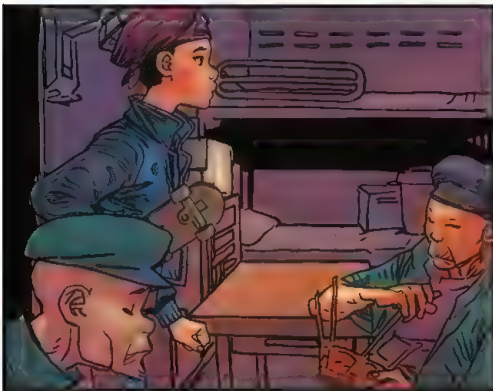
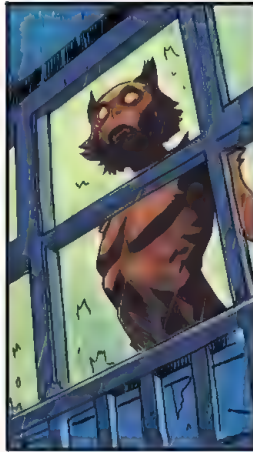
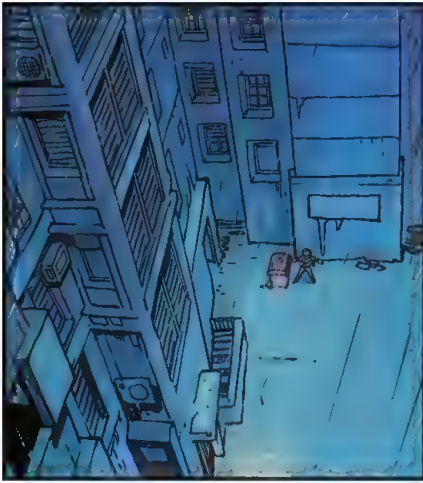
I, UH...

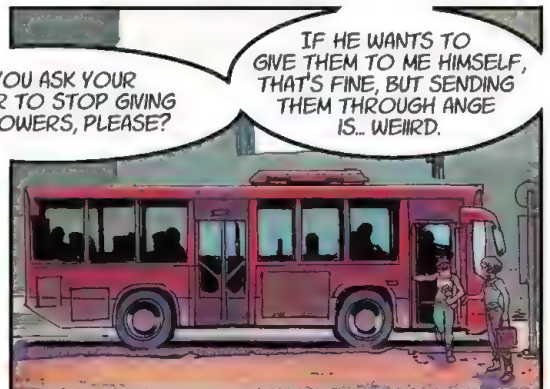
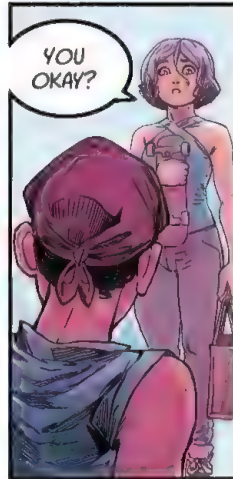
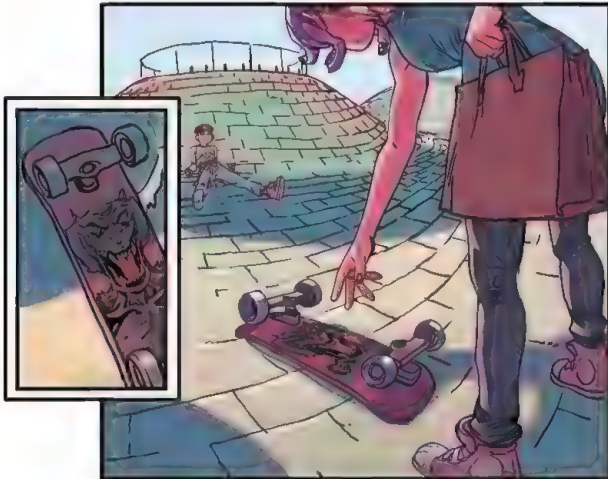
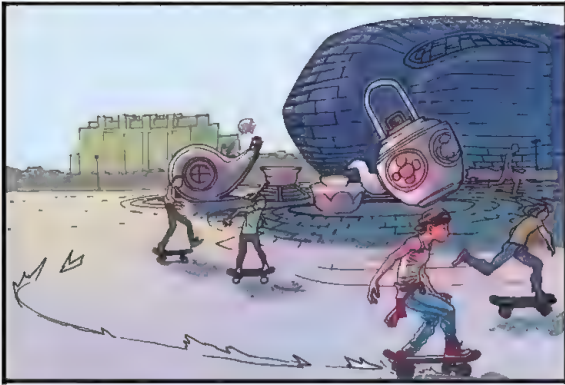


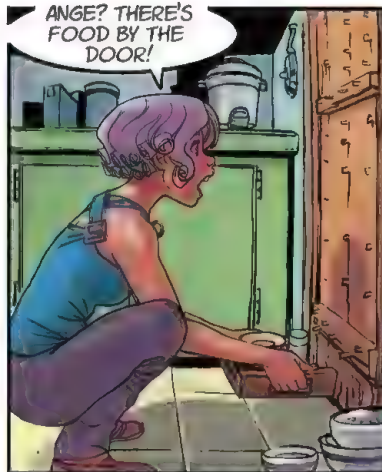
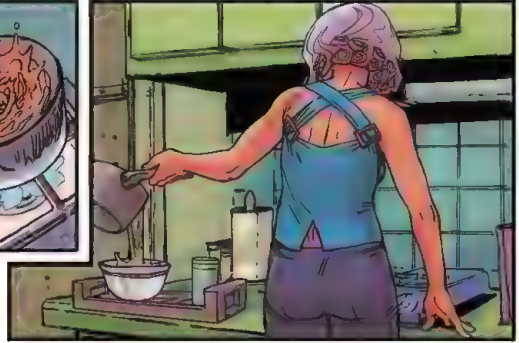
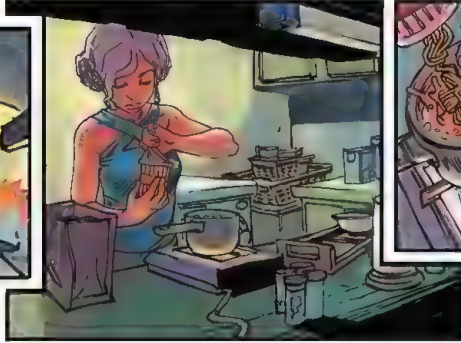
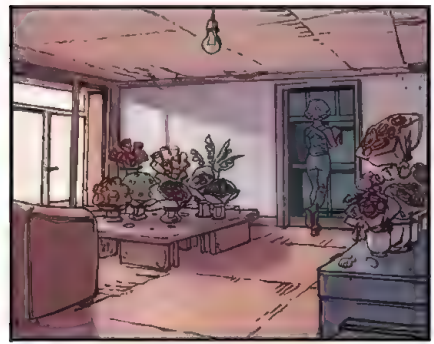
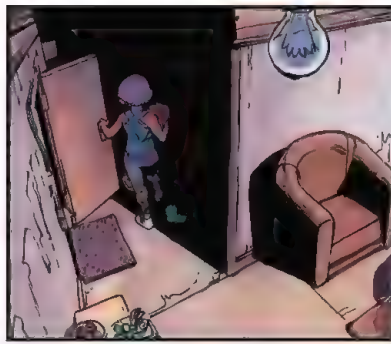
IF YOU'RE GOING
TO GET ON MY CASE, TOO, THEN
THIS IS REALLY GOING TO GET
ANNOYING!



BRRR...
NOW I SEE WHY
HE WANTED ME TO
TAKE OUT THE
TRASH!









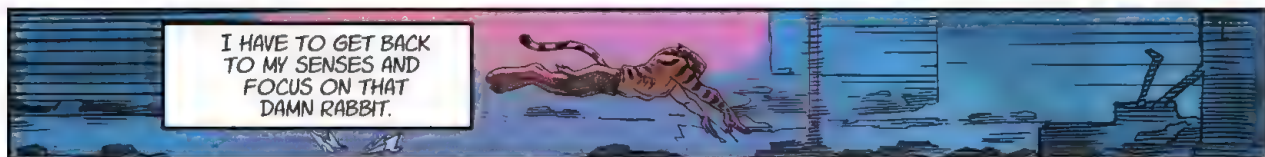
THIS PROBLEM
WON'T SOLVE
ITSELF.



IF I STAY
HERE, IT'LL
JUST GET
WORSE.



SORRY, LISA.
I SHOULD RUN FAR AWAY
AND LEAVE YOU ALONE
SO YOU'LL BE SAFE.

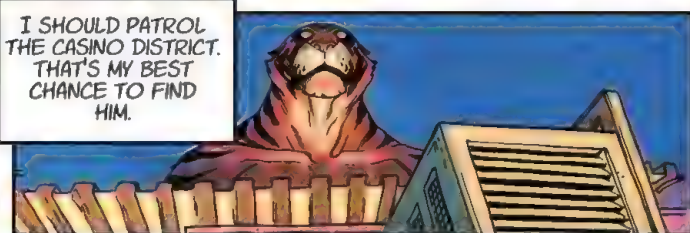


I HAVE TO GET BACK
TO MY SENSES AND
FOCUS ON THAT
DAMN RABBIT.



THAT LAST CAR
LOOKED LIKE IT
WOULD HAVE
COME FROM THE
RICH PART OF
TOWN.

AND BEING A
DIZHI, HE'S
PROBABLY
PART OF THE
MOB, TOO.



I SHOULD PATROL
THE CASINO DISTRICT.
THAT'S MY BEST
CHANCE TO FIND
HIM.

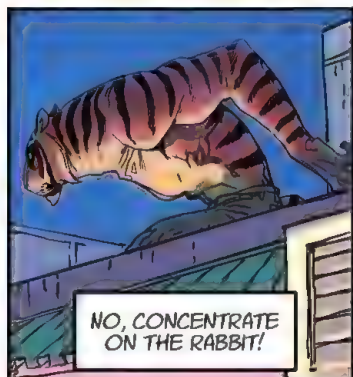


YEAH. I
THINK I CAN
SMELL HIM.

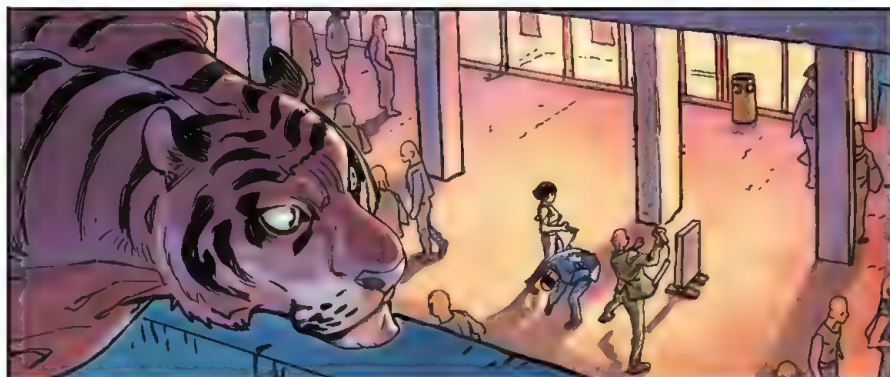


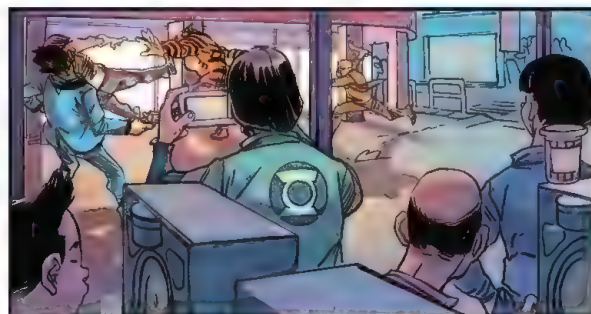
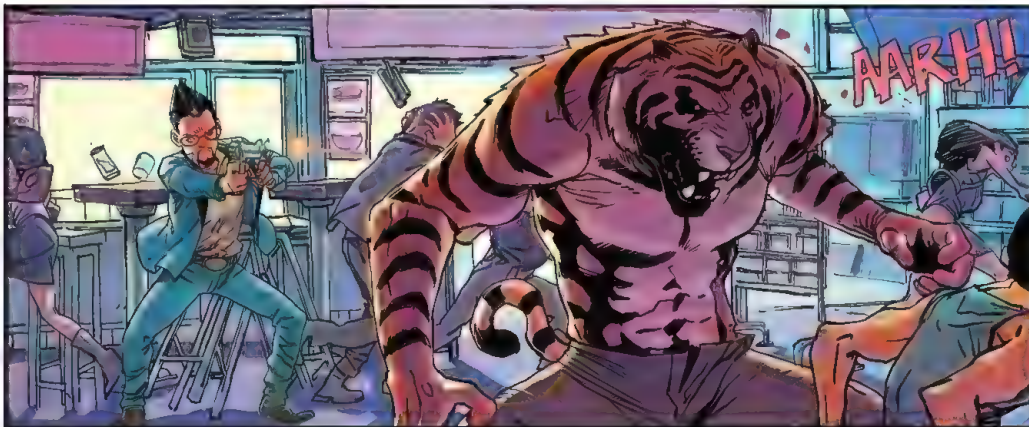
HELP!

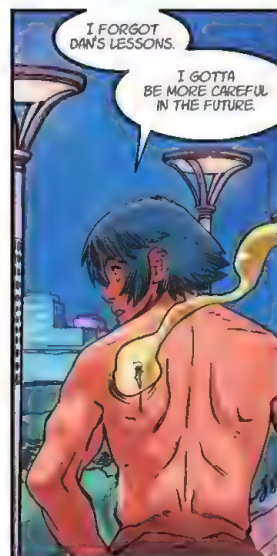
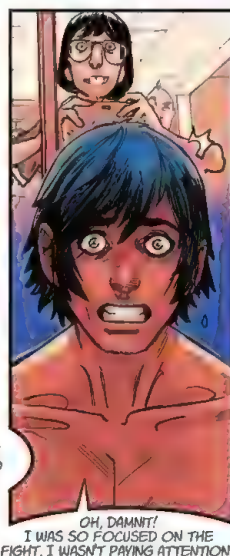
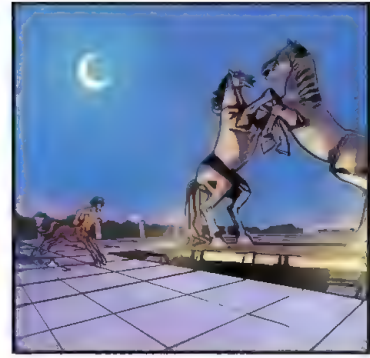
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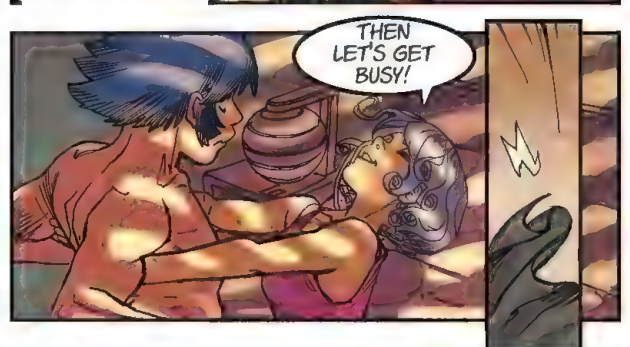
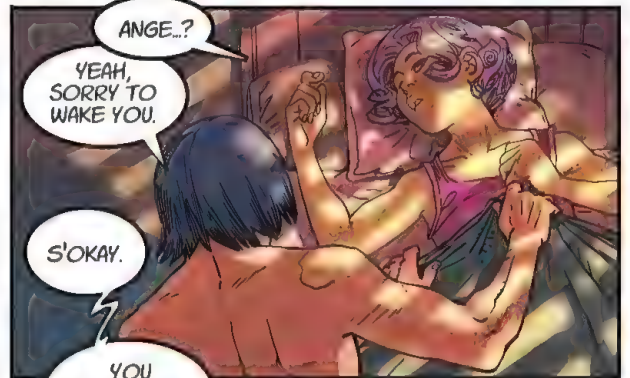
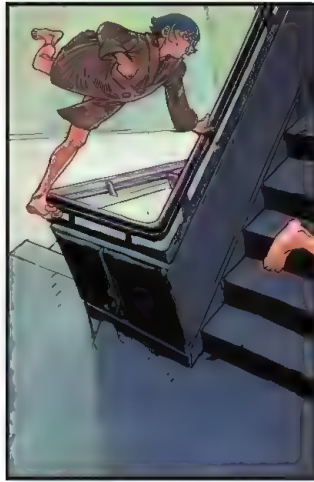
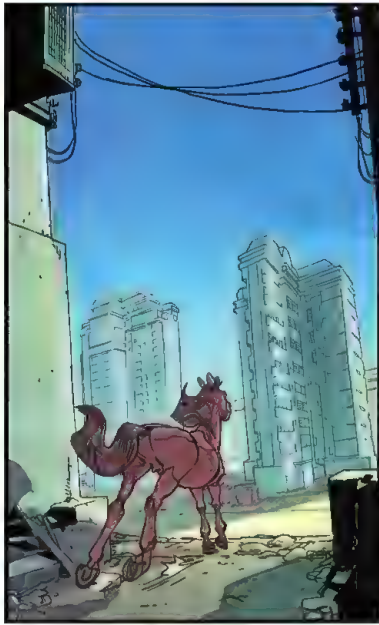


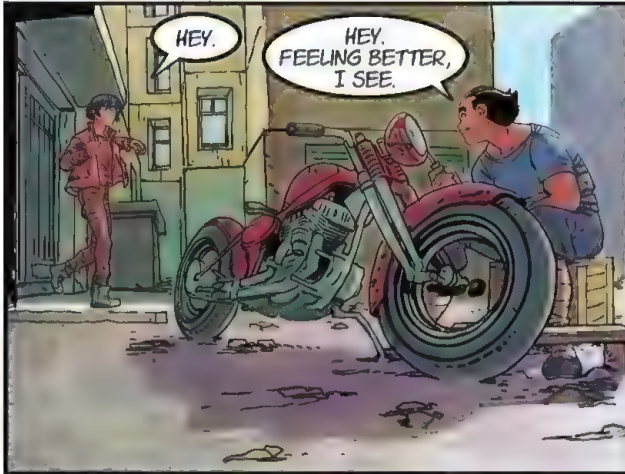
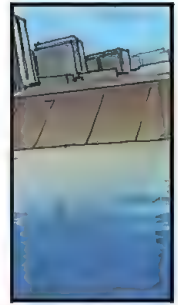
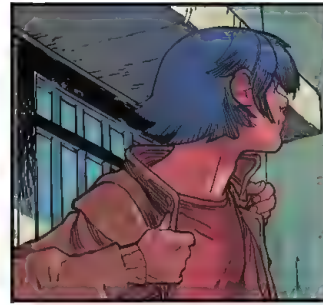
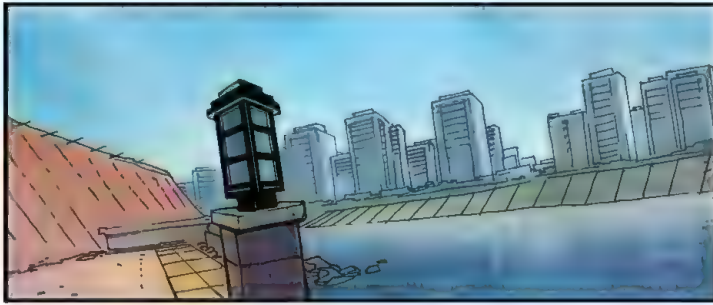
NO, CONCENTRATE
ON THE RABBIT!





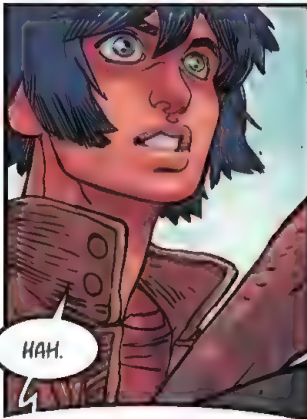
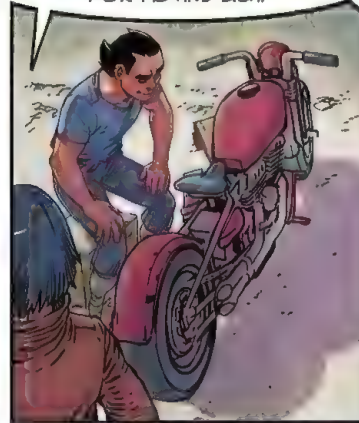




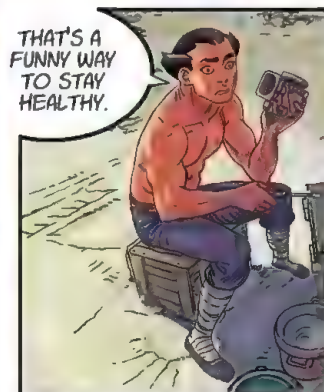
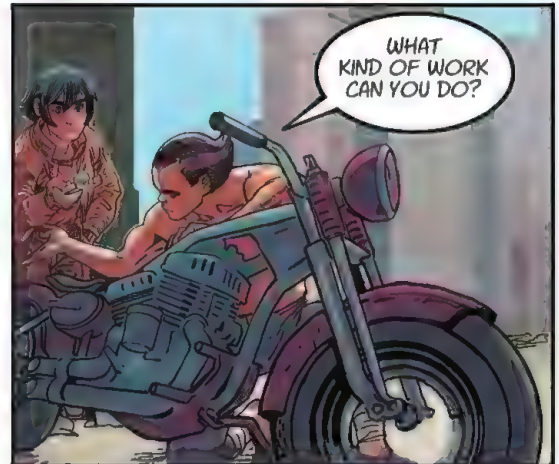
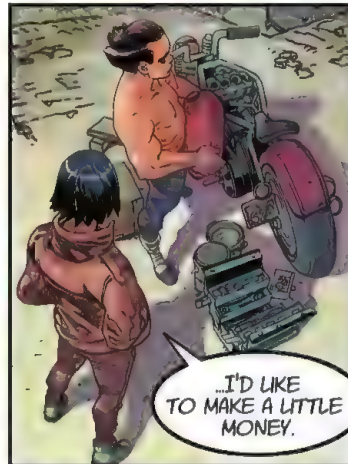


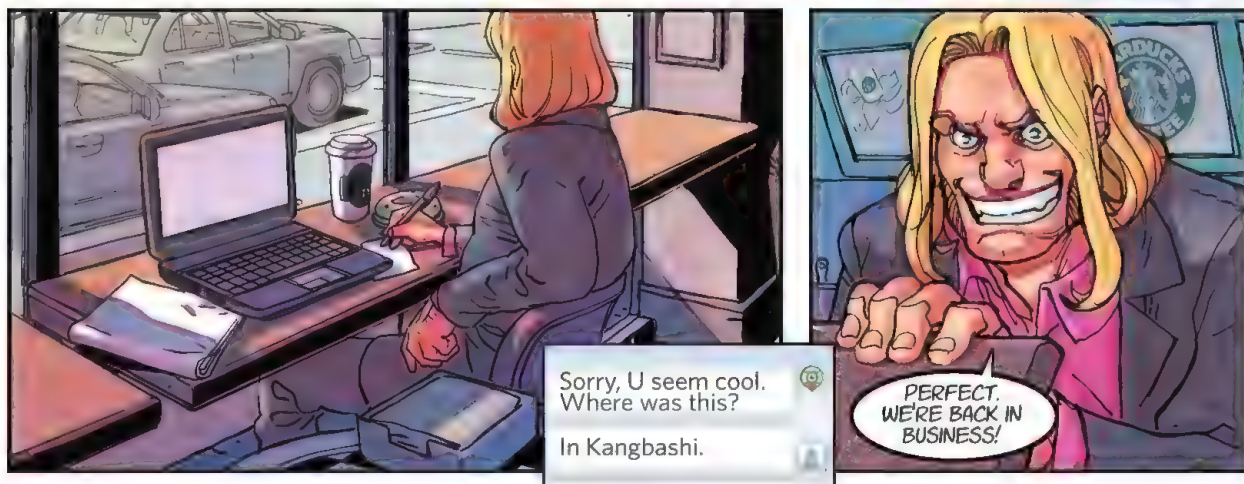
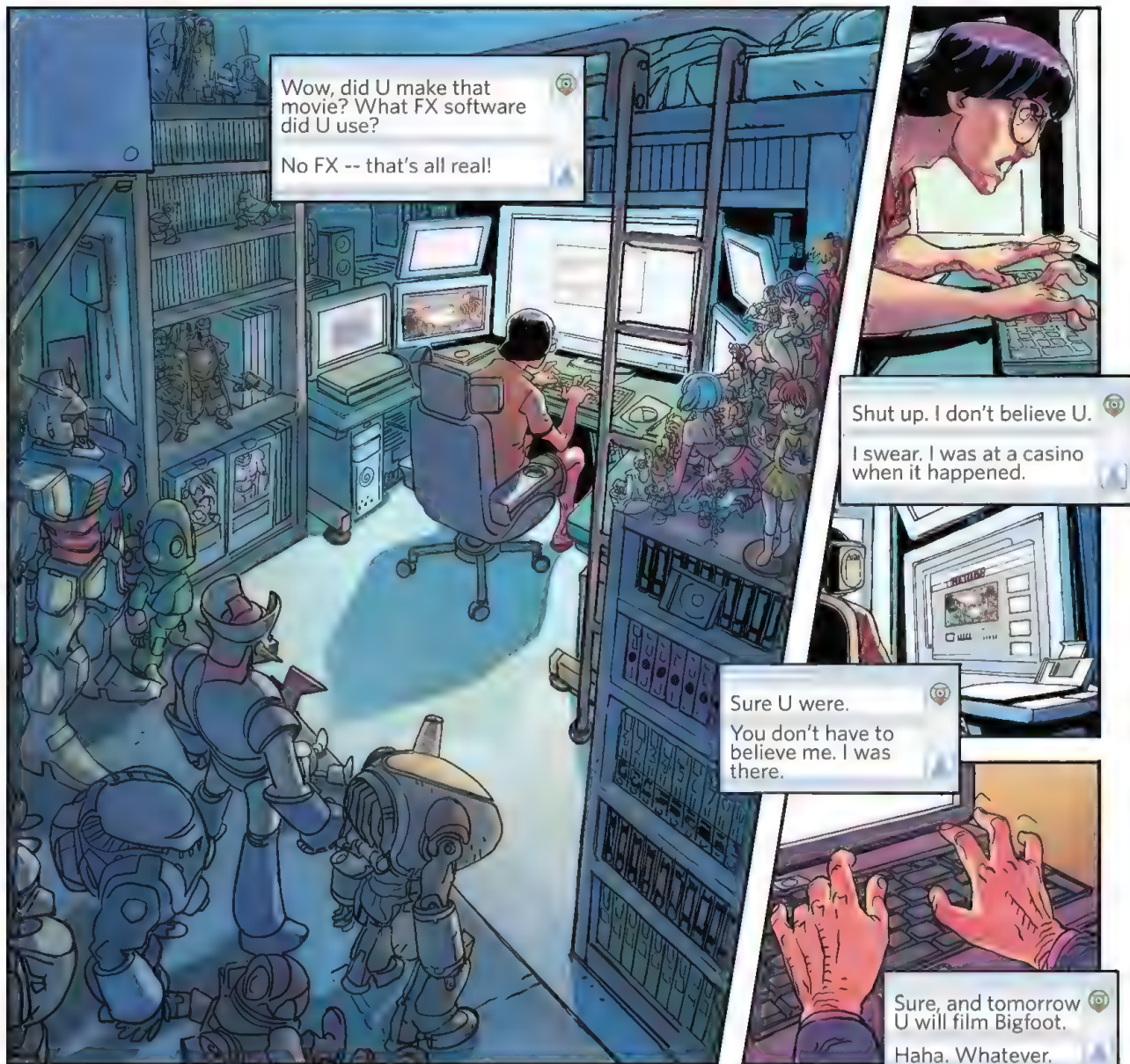
YEAH. I... I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME AND LISA.

NO SWEAT. SOME OF US STILL REMEMBER HOW TO BE HELPFUL...



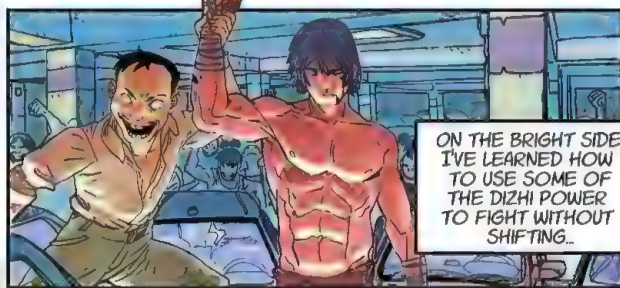
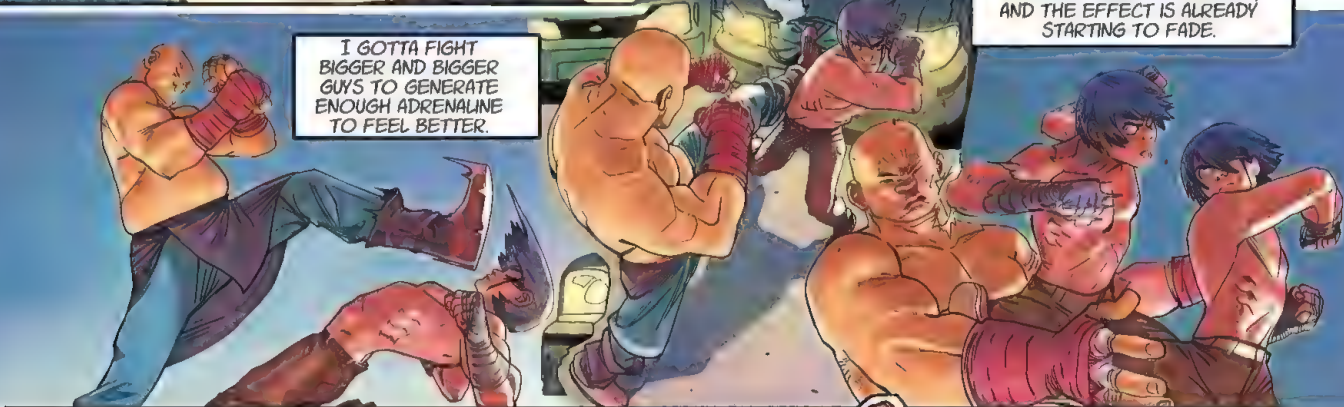
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING, NOW THAT I'M FEELING BETTER...

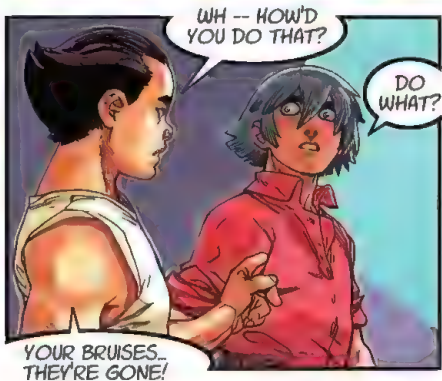
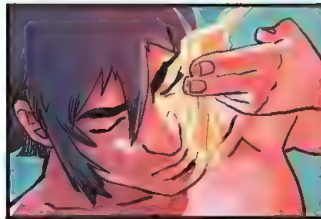
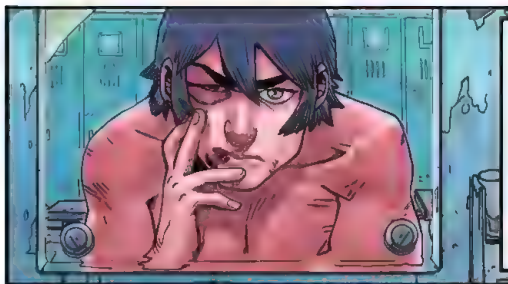


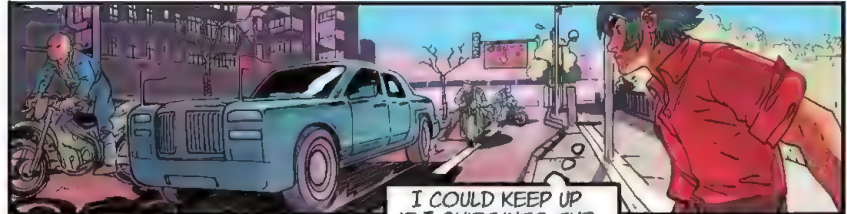


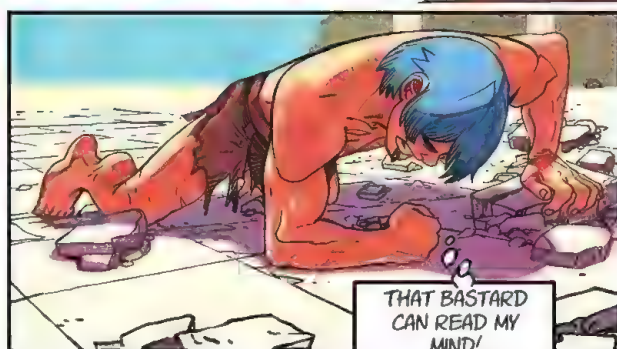
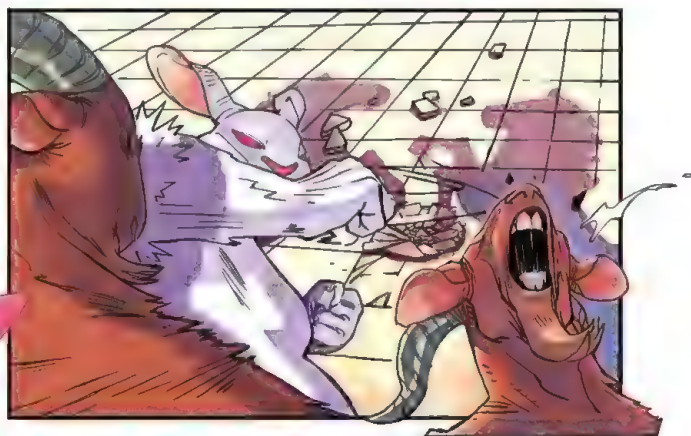
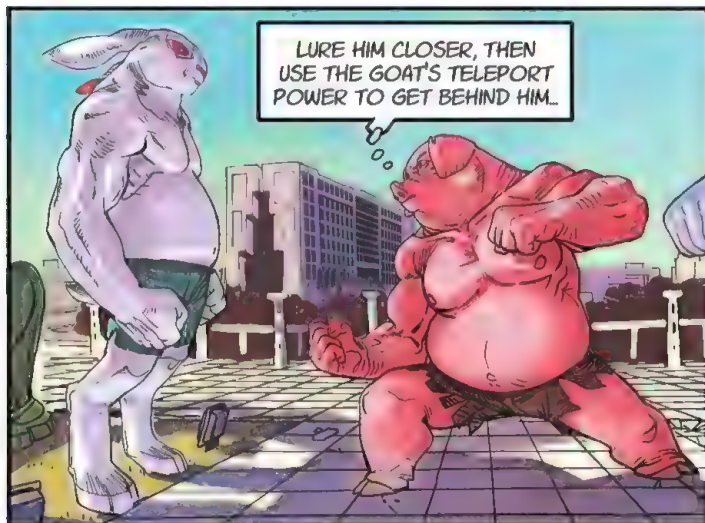
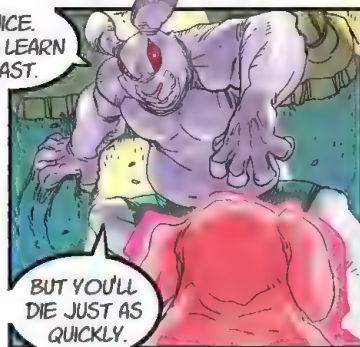
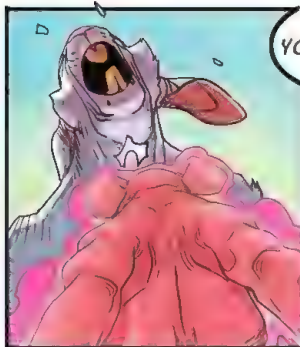
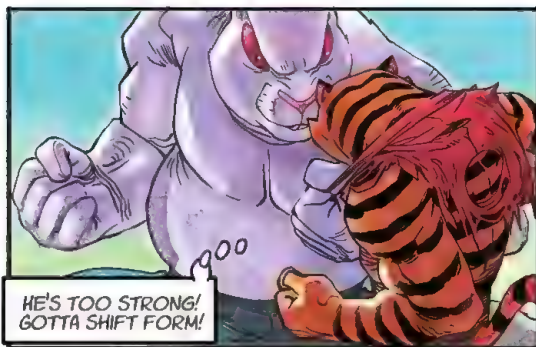


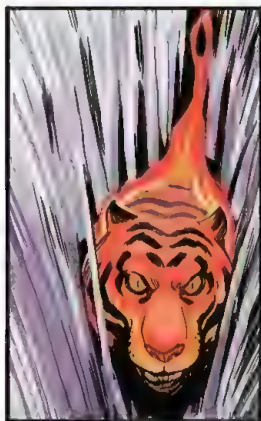
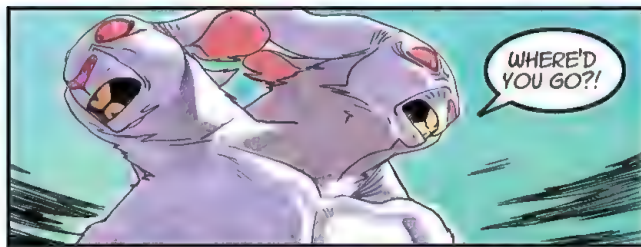
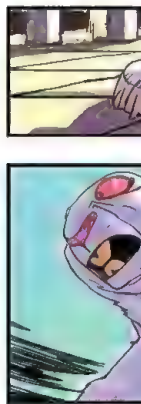
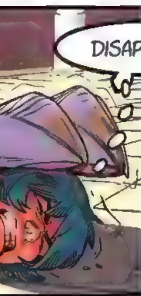
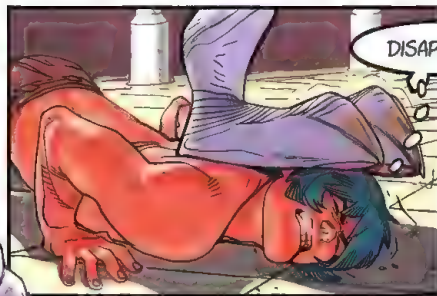
IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS, AND THE EFFECT IS ALREADY STARTING TO FADE.

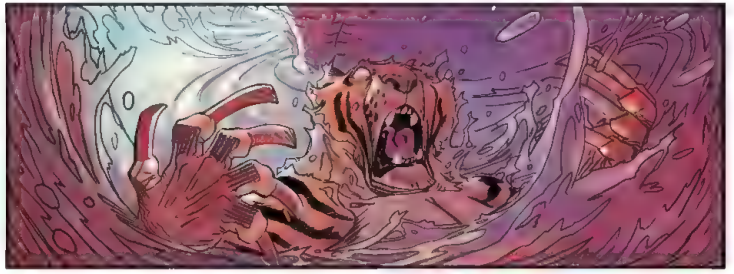
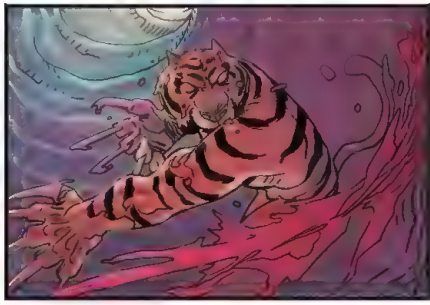


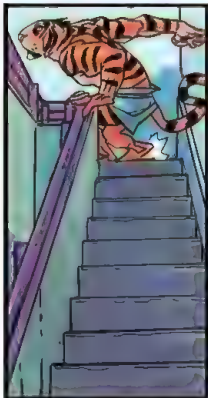
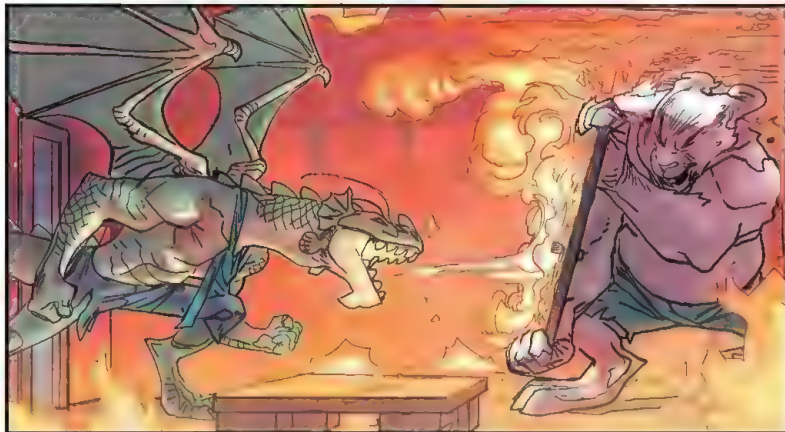
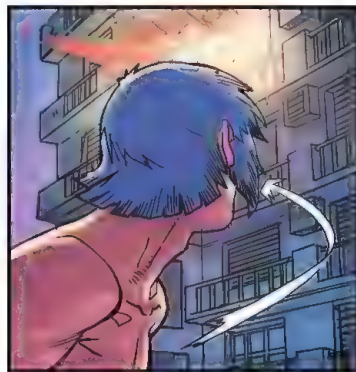
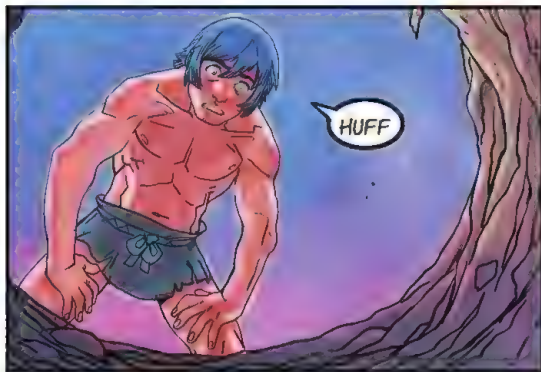
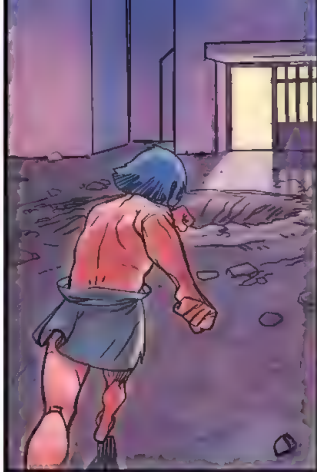


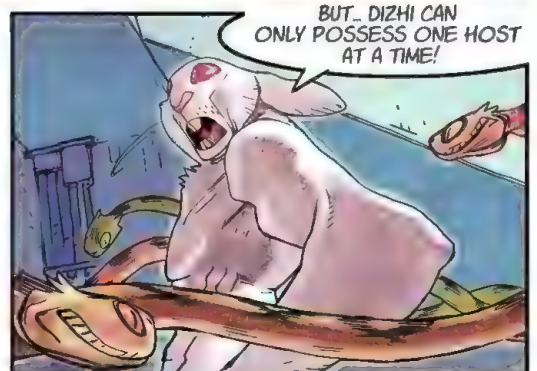
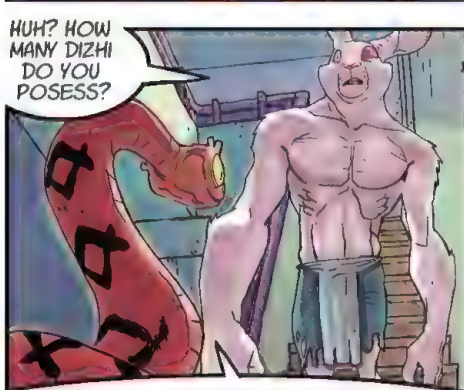
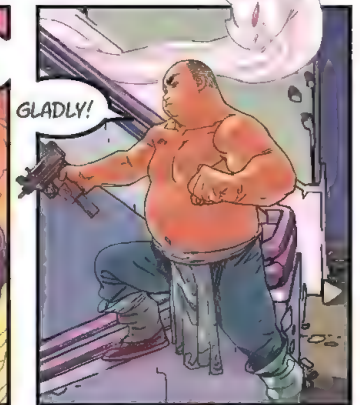
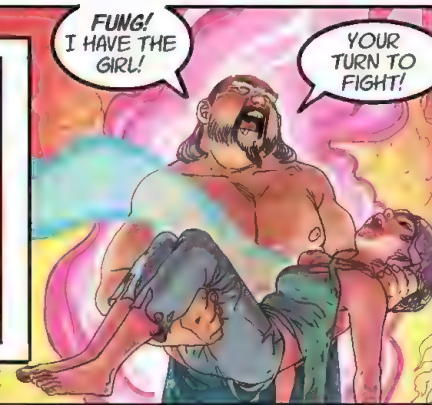
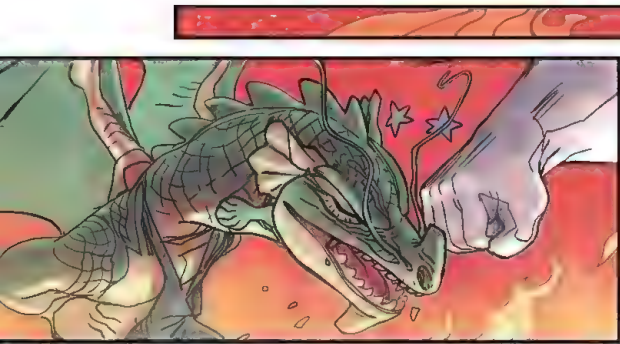


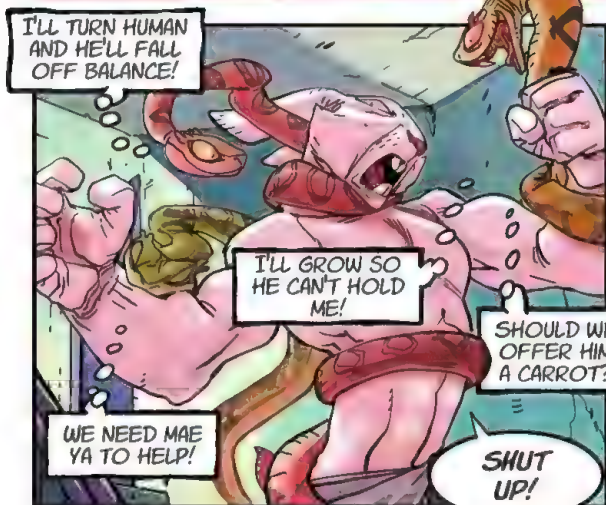
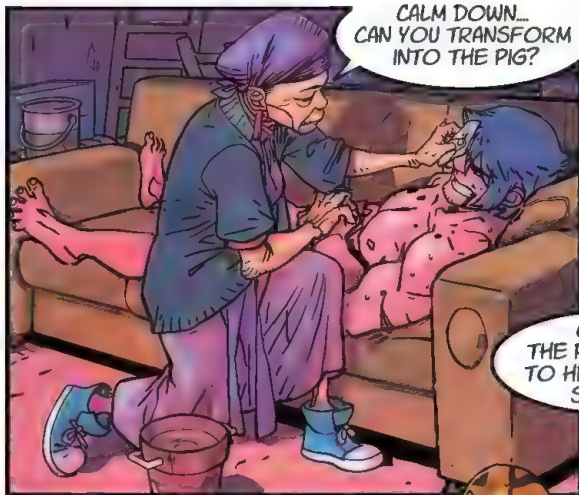


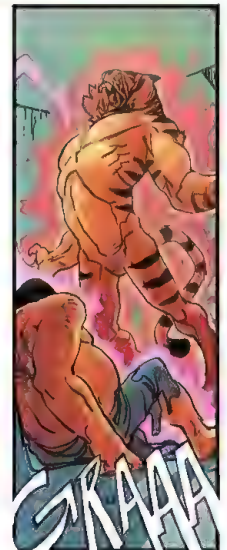
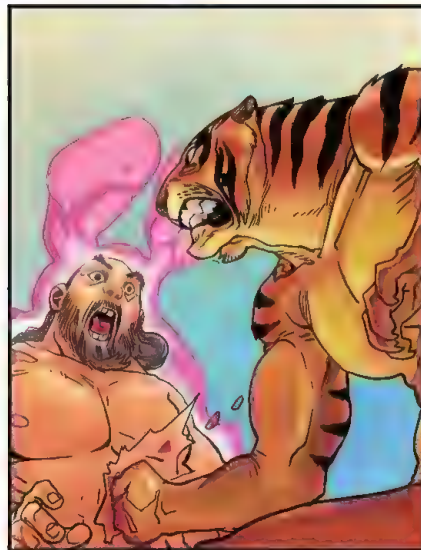
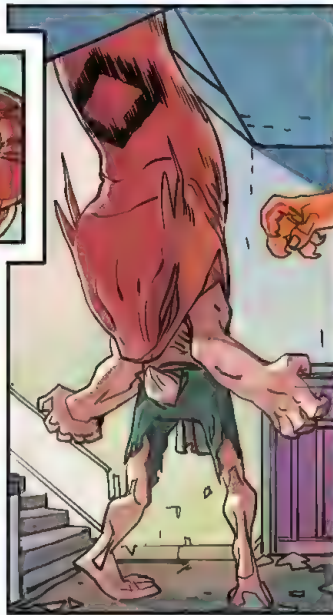
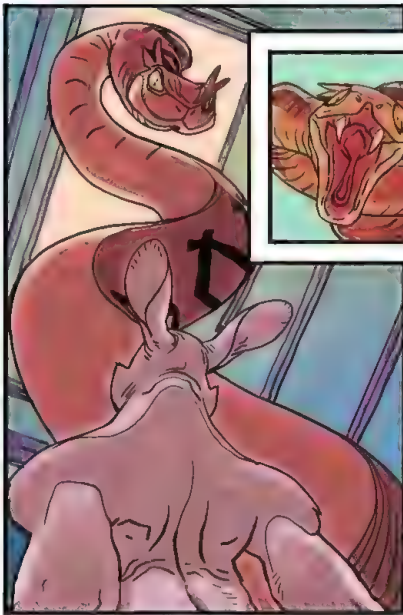


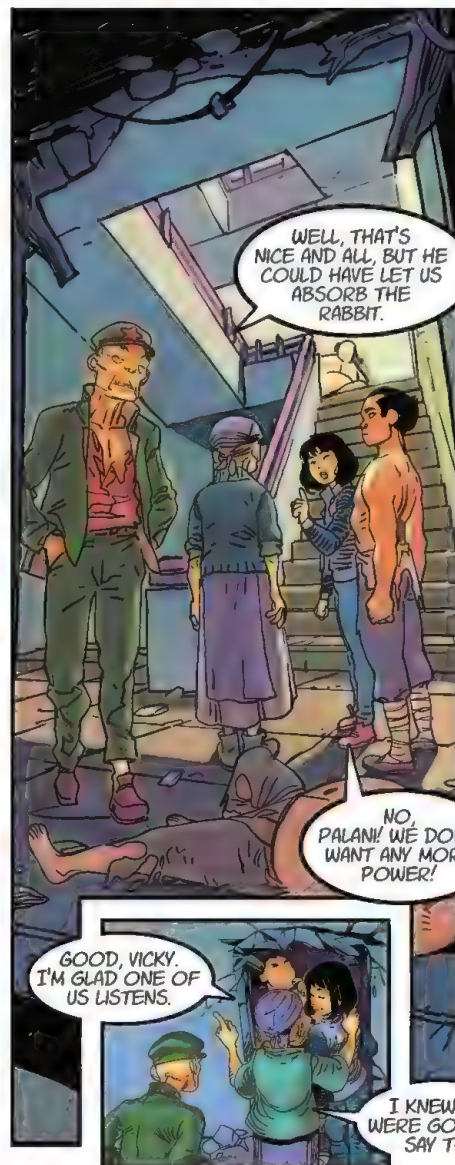
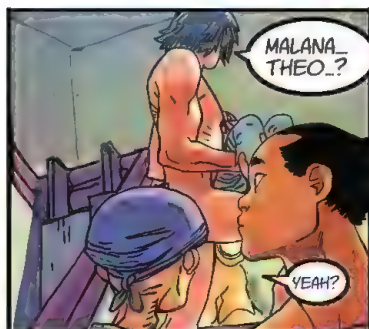




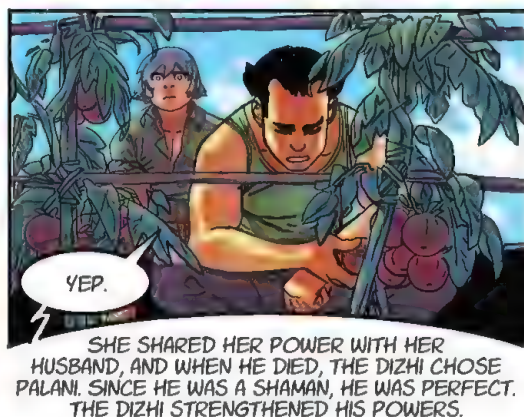
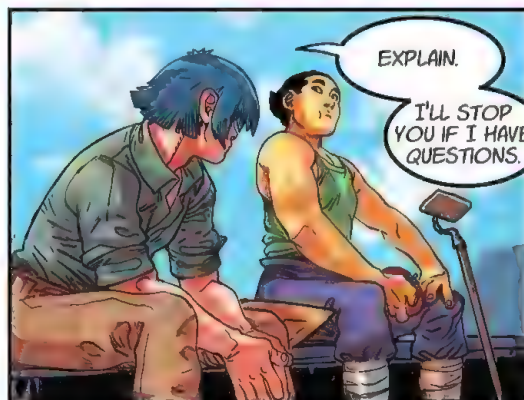
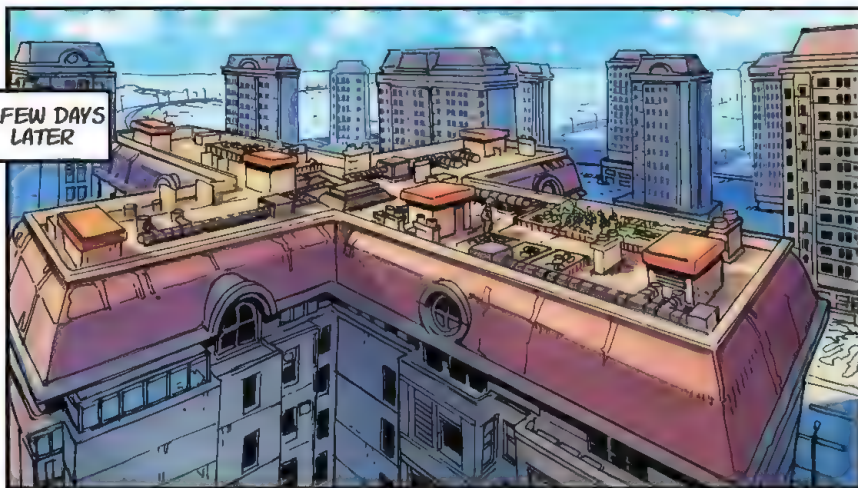




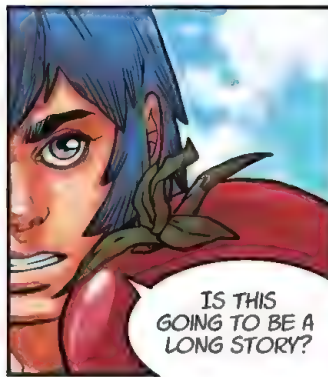
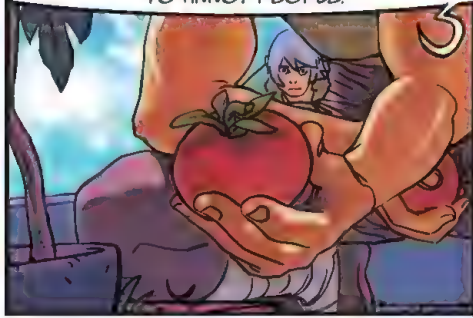




A FEW DAYS LATER



EACH DAY, HE COULD SEE A FEW MOMENTS INTO THE FUTURE. NOT MUCH USE EXCEPT TO ANNOY PEOPLE.



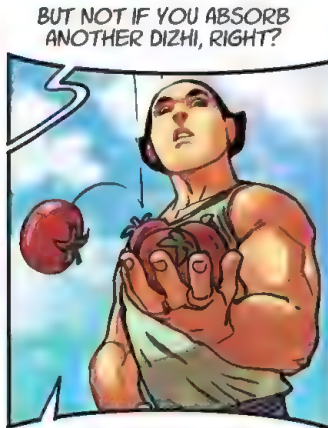
IS THIS GOING TO BE A LONG STORY?



RIGHT, SORRY. THE SNAKE DIZHI IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT CAN BE SHARED WITH MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE.



THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T SMELL US — WE'RE THE ONLY CLAN THAT CAN HIDE OUR "AURA" FROM OTHERS.



BUT NOT IF YOU ABSORB ANOTHER DIZHI, RIGHT?

YEP. THAT'S WHY WE LET YOU ABSORB THE RABBIT.



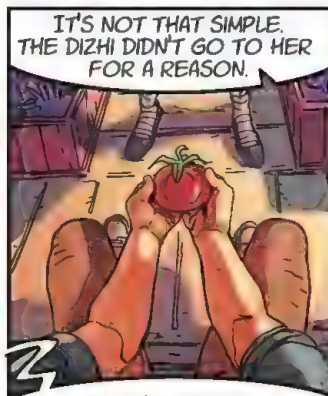
EVEN IF THAT IS A LITTLE DANGEROUS IN YOUR STATE.

MY STATE?

A DIZHI IS MEANT TO BE SHARED, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A PARTNER. THAT'S WHY THEY ARE GNAWING AT YOU. AND HAVING SO MANY MAKES IT WORSE.



ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD SHARE IT WITH LISA?



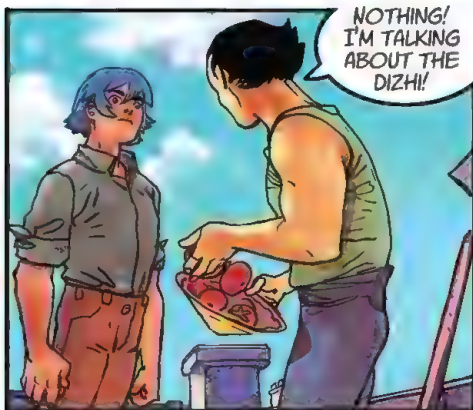
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. THE DIZHI DIDN'T GO TO HER FOR A REASON.

BUT THE DRAGON CHOSE HER...



THIS MIGHT BE ABOUT SHARING WITH YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



NOTHING! I'M TALKING ABOUT THE DIZHI!

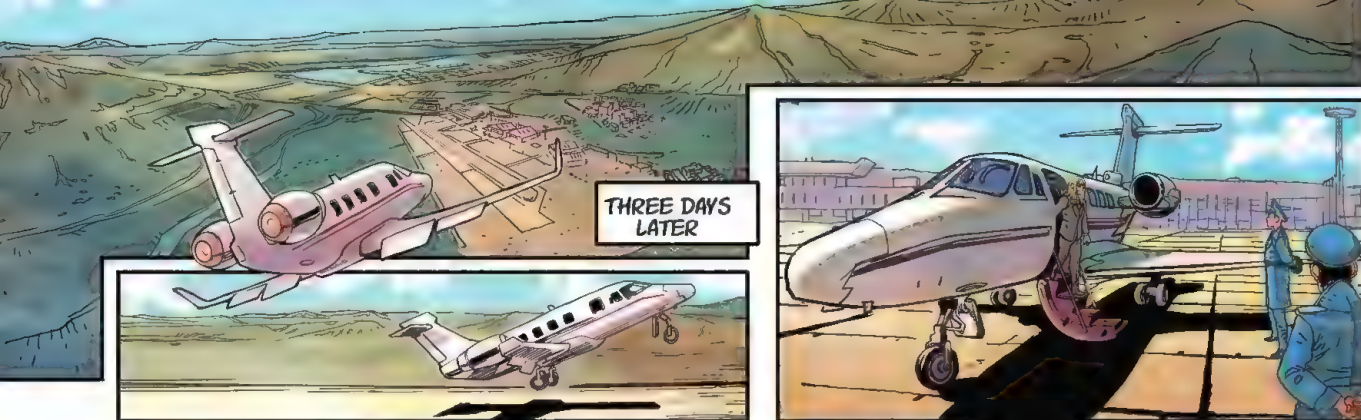


OKAY THEN — WHY DID THE DRAGON CHOSE LISA? WHY HER?

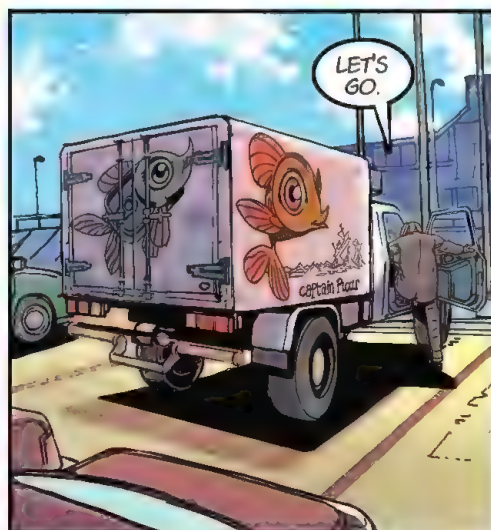
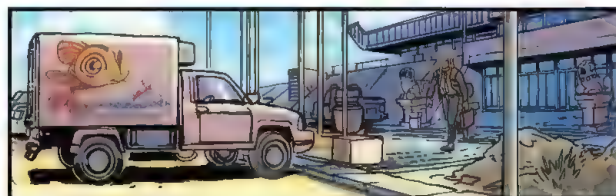
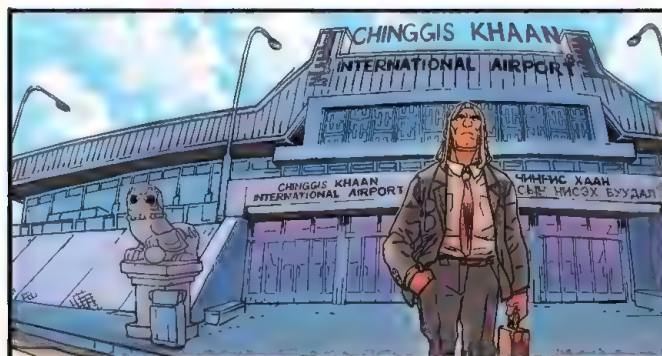
PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU KNEW HER AND THE DIZHI SAW HER SOUL... IT WORKS IN CONCENTRIC CIRCLES...

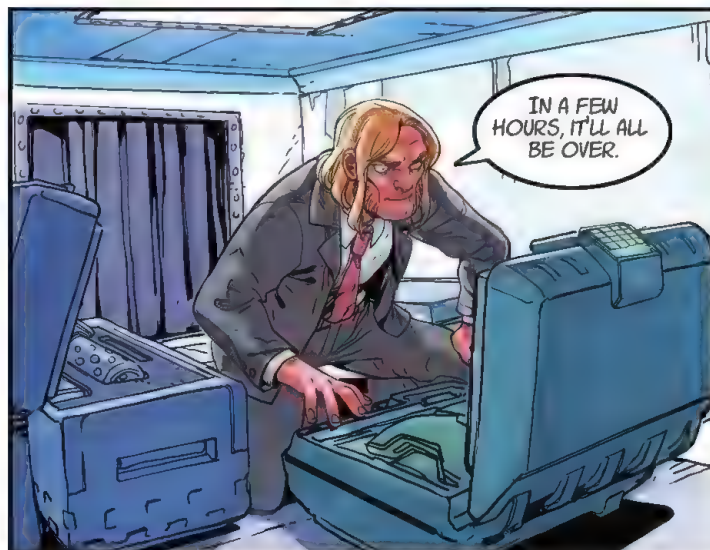
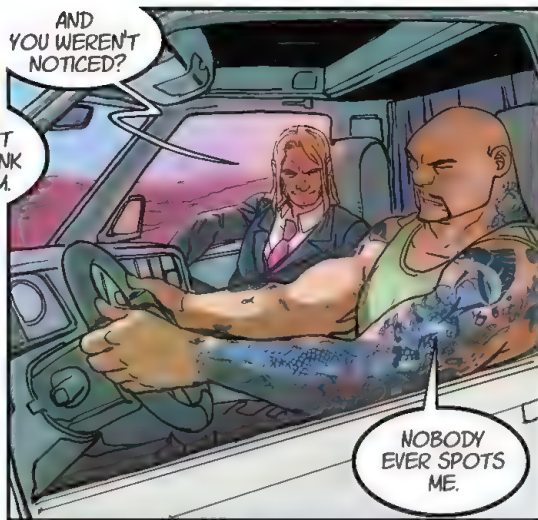
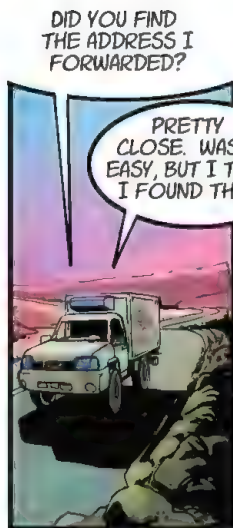


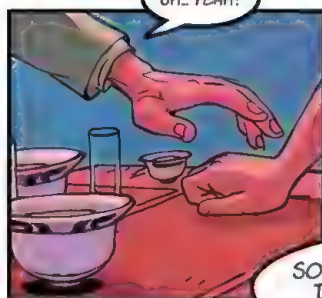
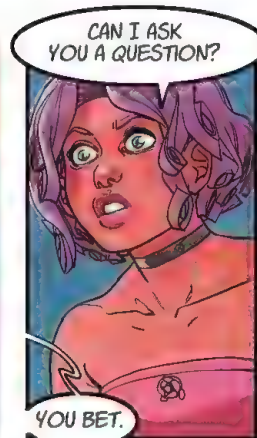
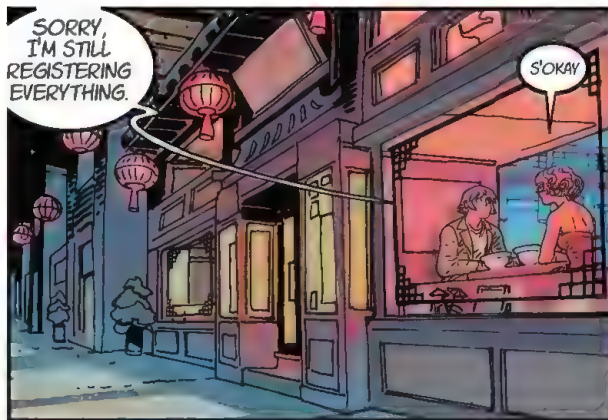




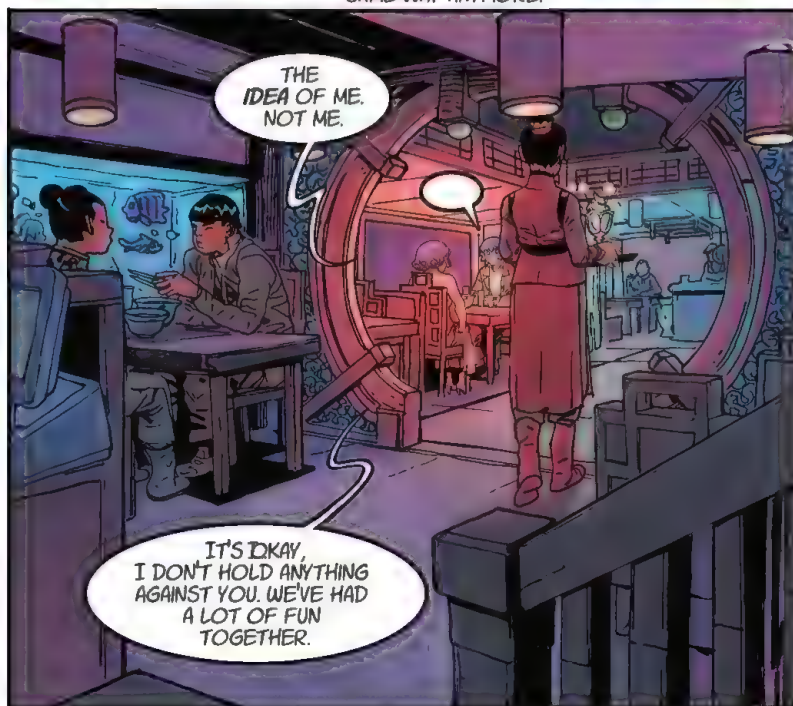
ARE YOU HERE ON BUSINESS
OR PLEASURE?

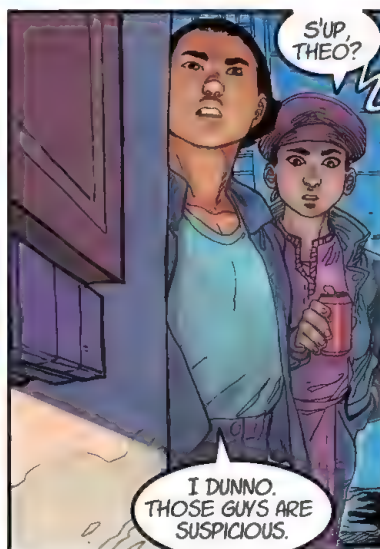
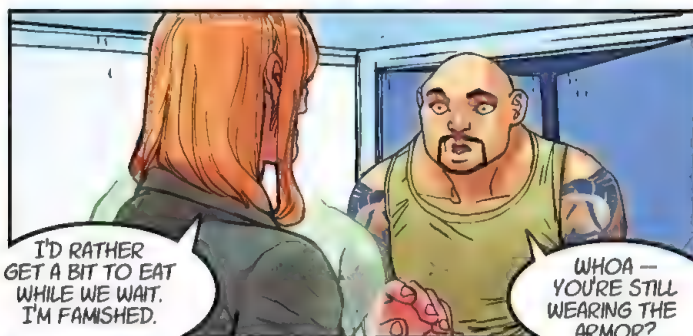
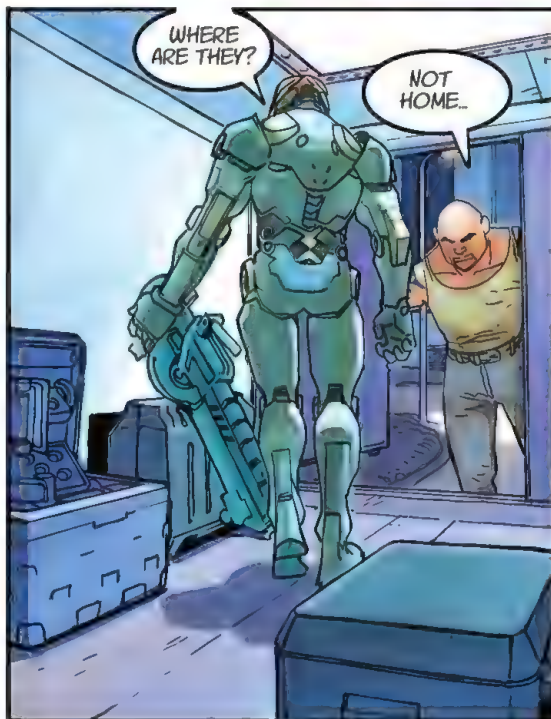
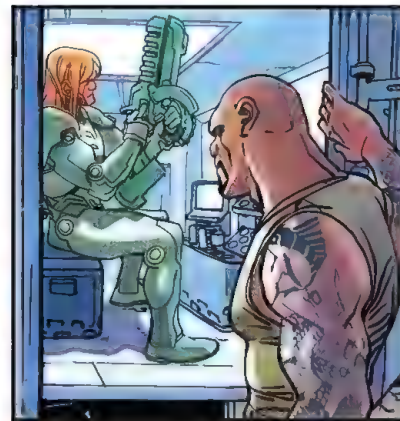






WE'VE CHANGED
SO MUCH SINCE HIGH SCHOOL,
I DUNNO IF YOU FEEL THE
SAME WAY ANYMORE.





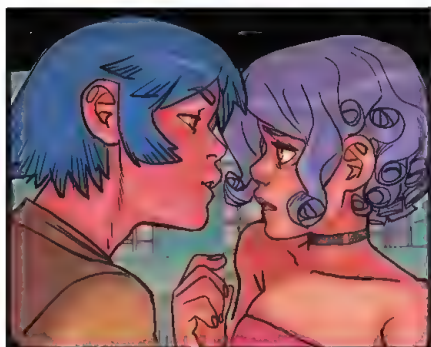


WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK?"

JUST FORGET IT, PLEASE.



I CAN'T.

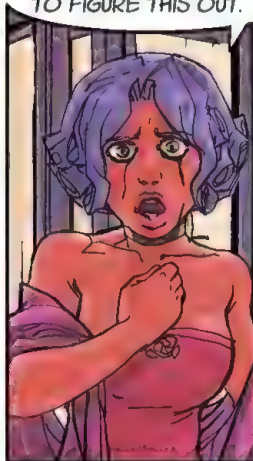


STOP!



YOU'RE SO LOST IN YOURSELF, YOU DON'T SEE HOW HARD IT'S BEEN FOR ME TO DEAL WITH YOUR PROBLEMS!

I... I NEED SPACE. I NEED TO FIGURE THIS OUT.



I JUST WANT SOME PEACE.

I'LL BE BACK. WE CAN TALK LATER.



I...



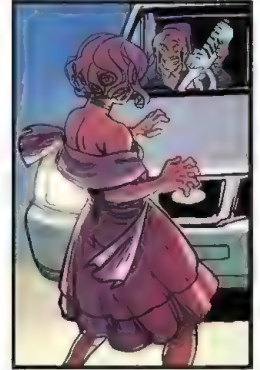
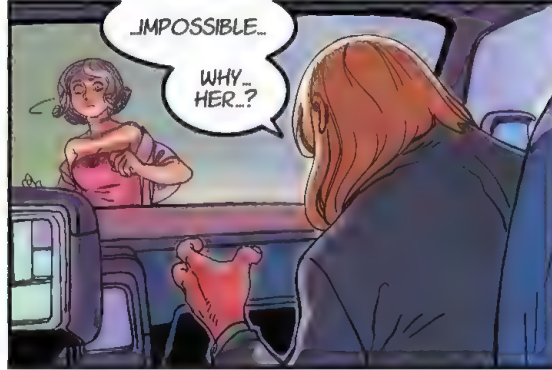
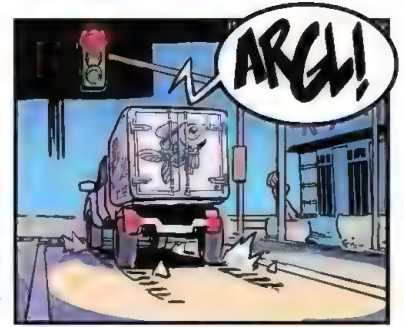
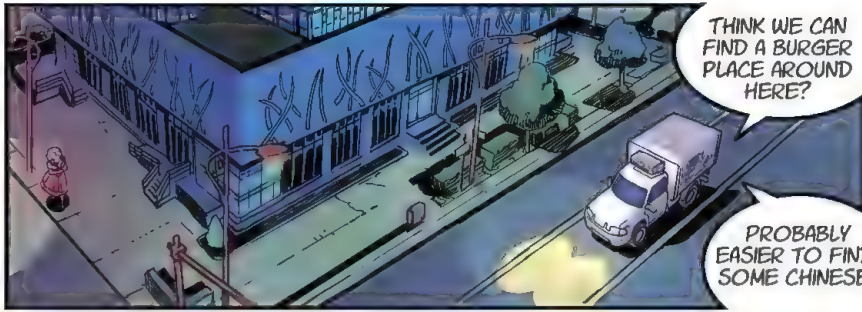
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

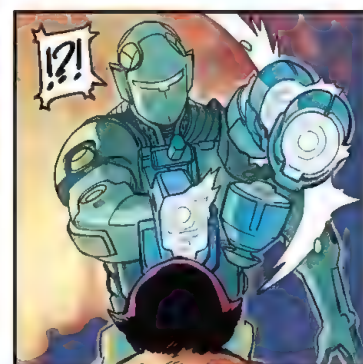
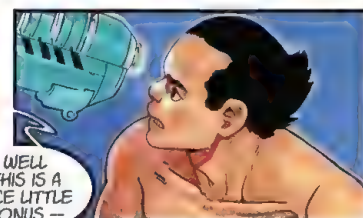
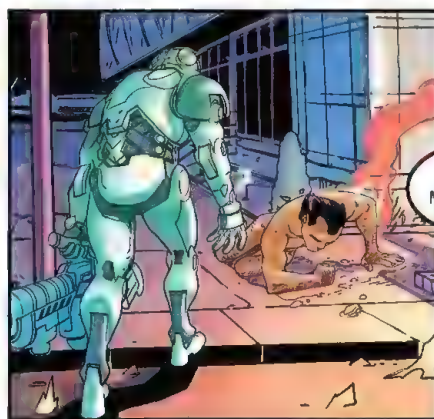
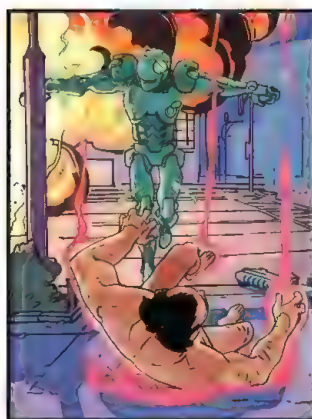
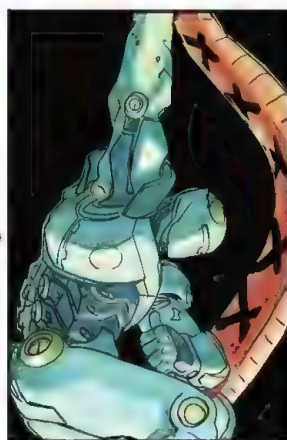
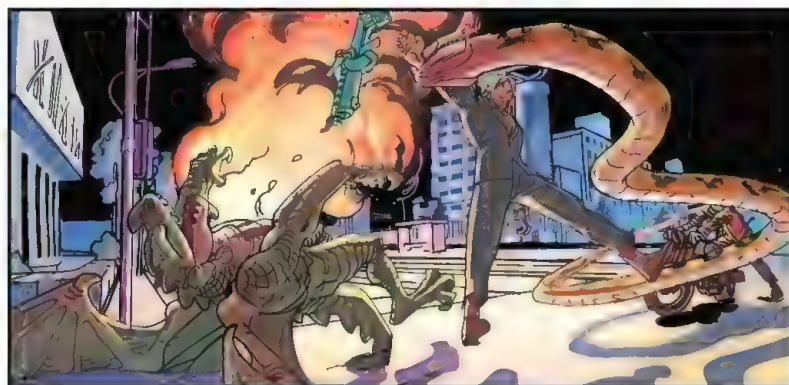
ANYTHING BUGS ME, I'LL BURN IT, OKAY?

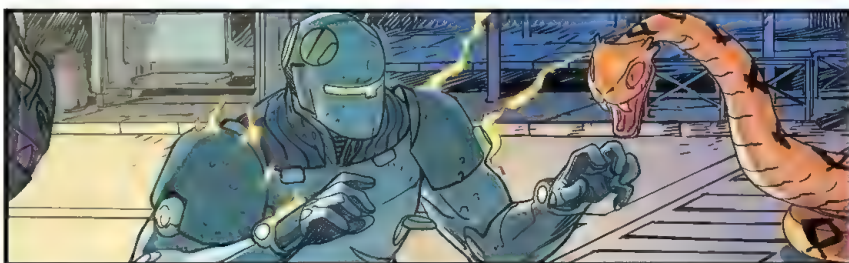
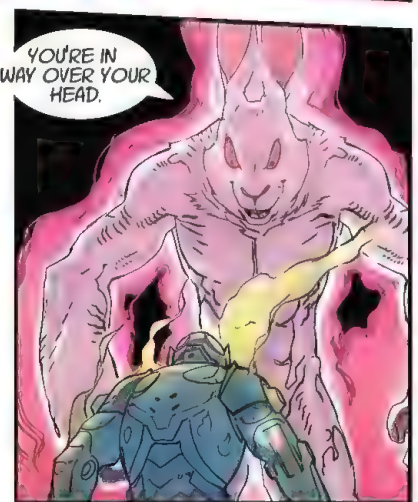
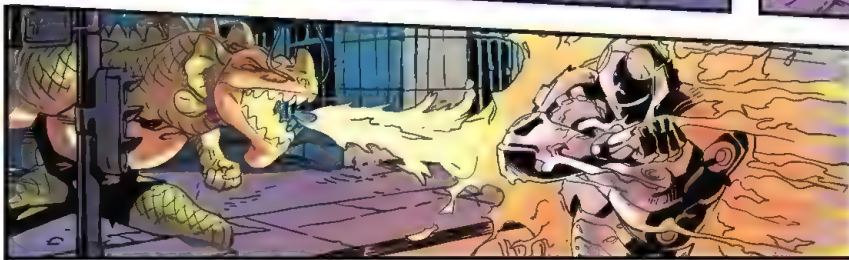
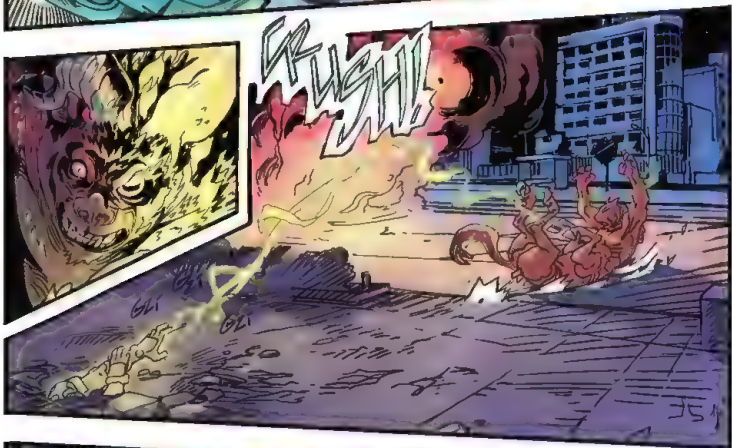
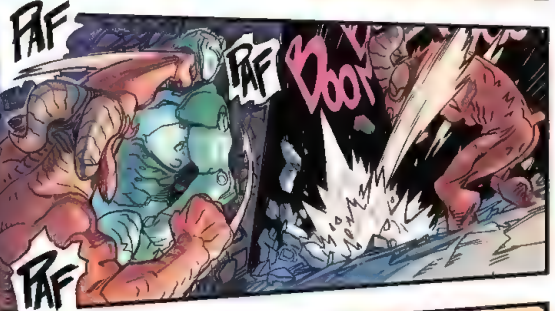
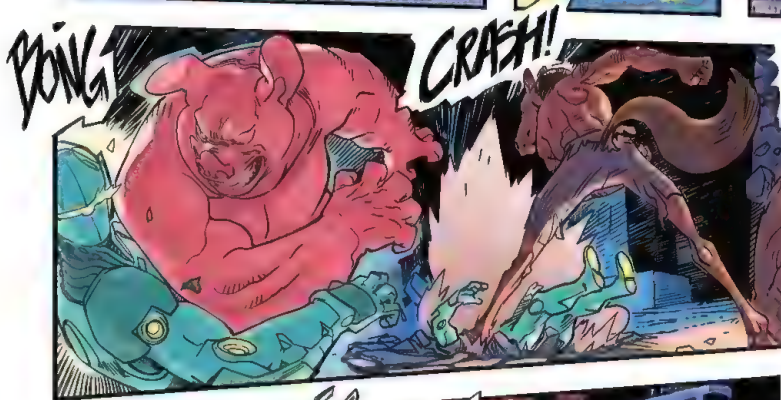
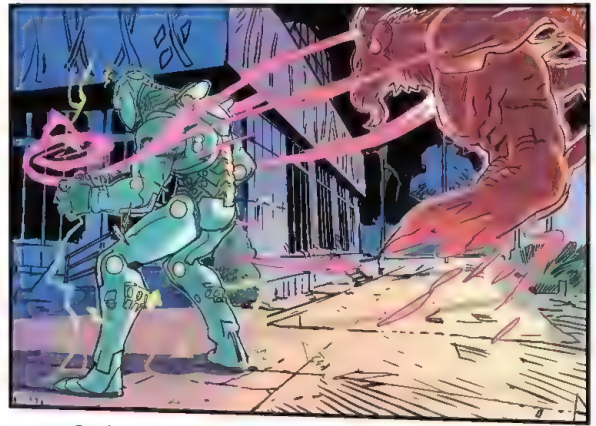
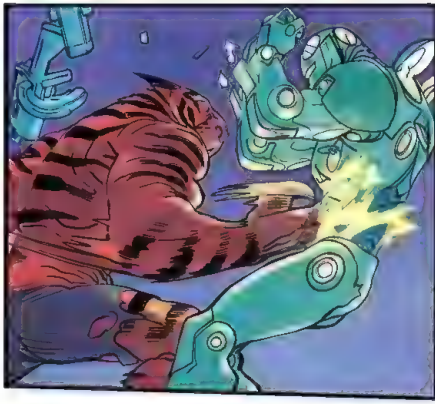
HAHA! OKAY!

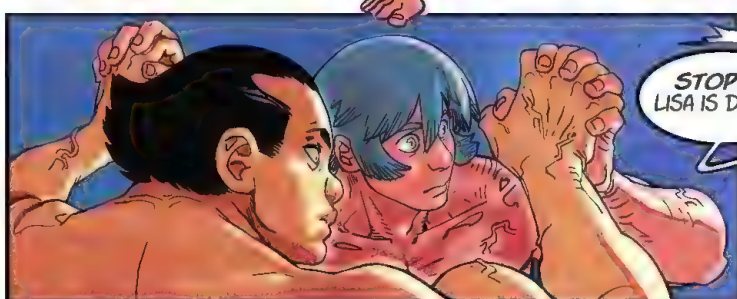
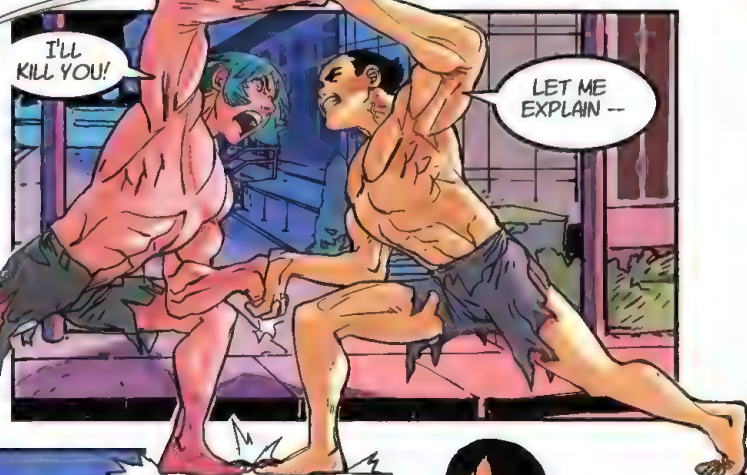
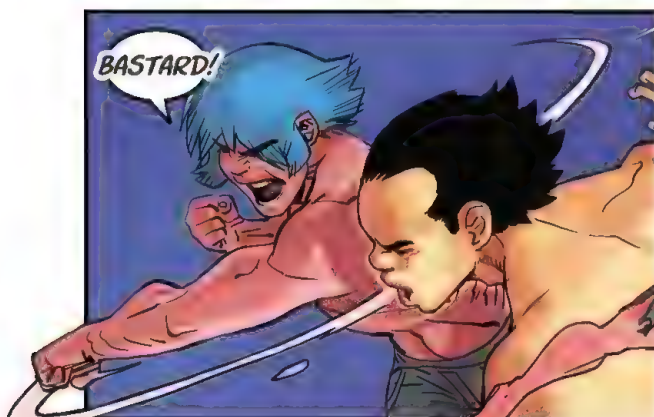
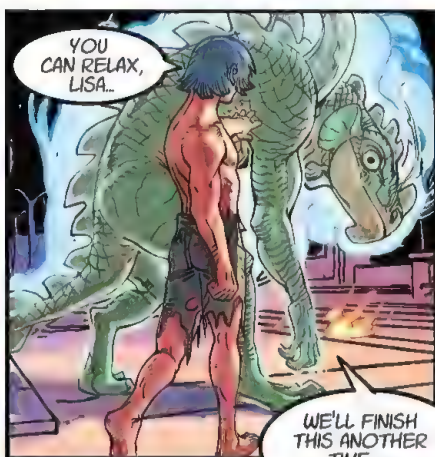


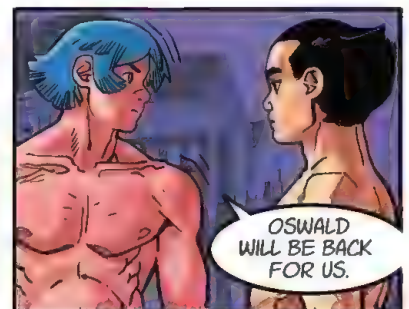
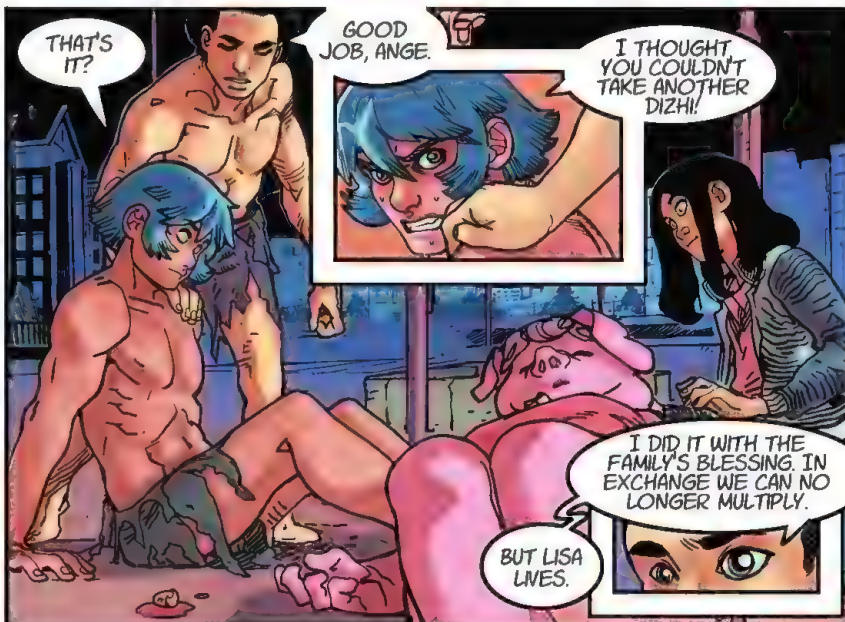
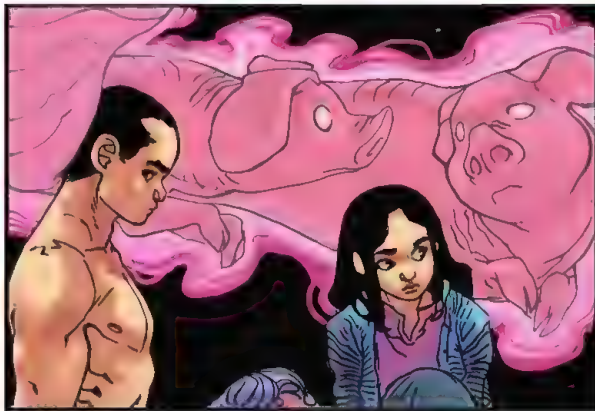
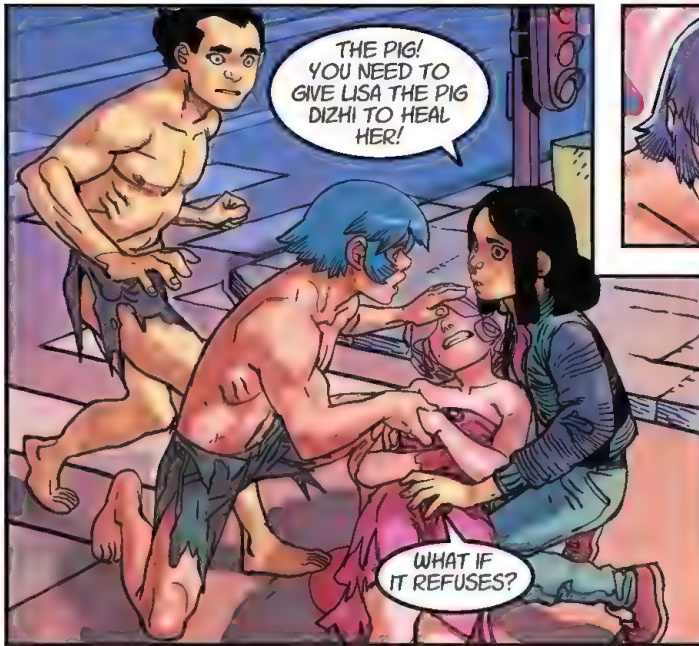
THE COW...

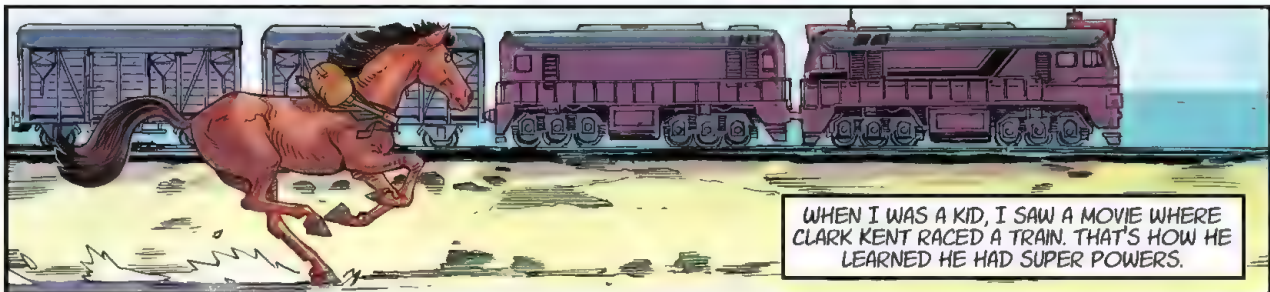








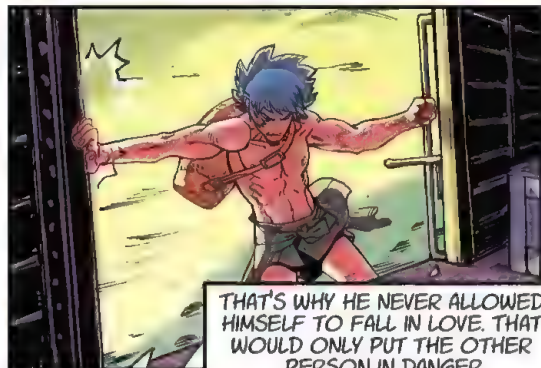




WHEN I WAS A KID, I SAW A MOVIE WHERE CLARK KENT RACED A TRAIN. THAT'S HOW HE LEARNED HE HAD SUPER POWERS.



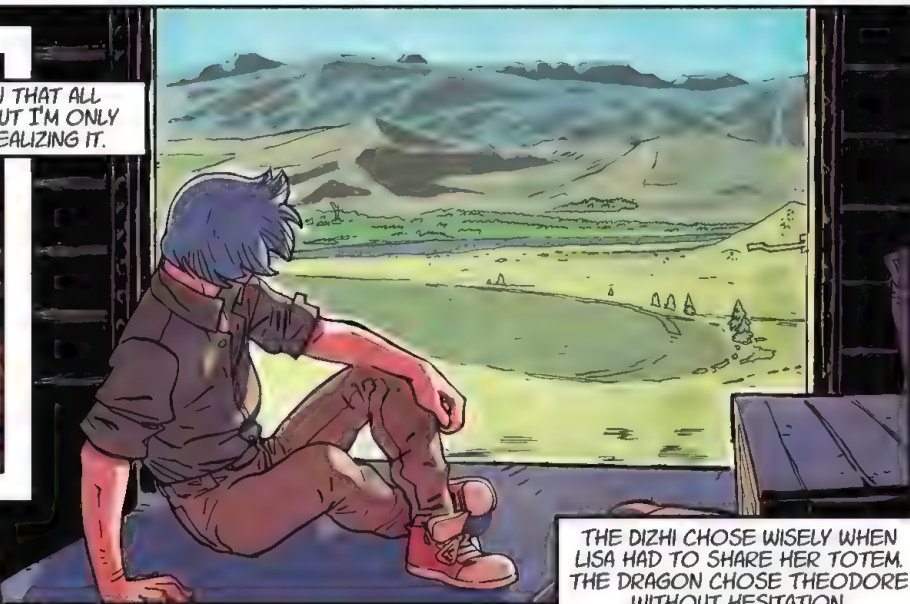
FROM THAT MOMENT ON, HE DECIDED TO DO GOOD, AND HE WOULD NEVER HESITATE.



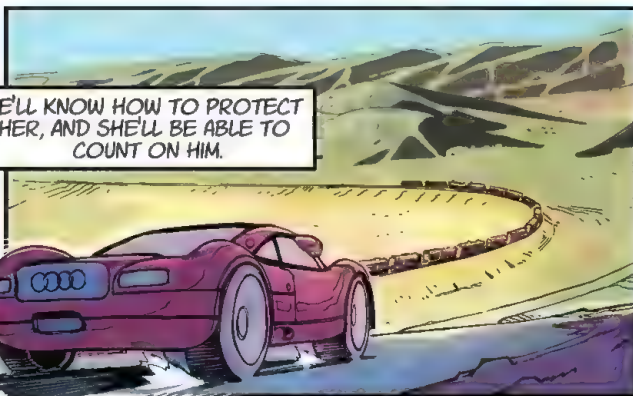
THAT'S WHY HE NEVER ALLOWED HIMSELF TO FALL IN LOVE. THAT WOULD ONLY PUT THE OTHER PERSON IN DANGER.



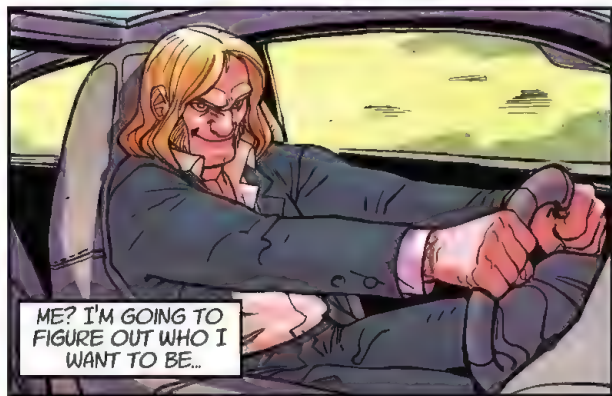
I KNEW THAT ALL ALONG, BUT I'M ONLY NOW REALIZING IT.



THE DIZHI CHOSE WISELY WHEN LISA HAD TO SHARE HER TOTEM. THE DRAGON CHOSE THEODORE WITHOUT HESITATION.



HE'LL KNOW HOW TO PROTECT HER, AND SHE'LL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON HIM.

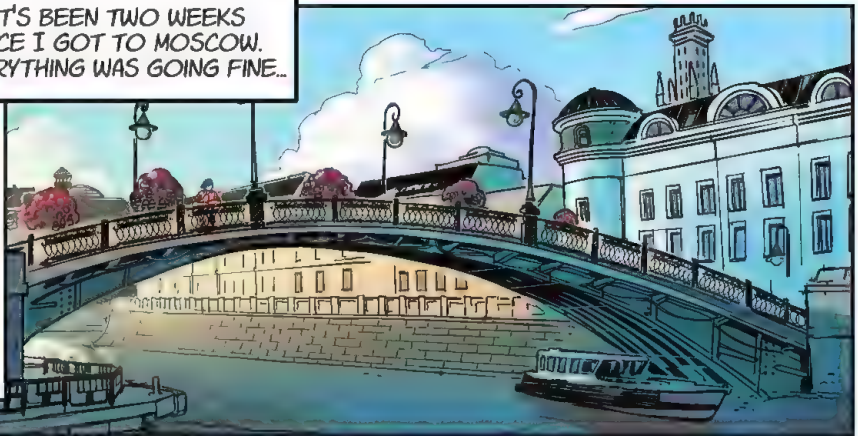


ME? I'M GOING TO FIGURE OUT WHO I WANT TO BE...

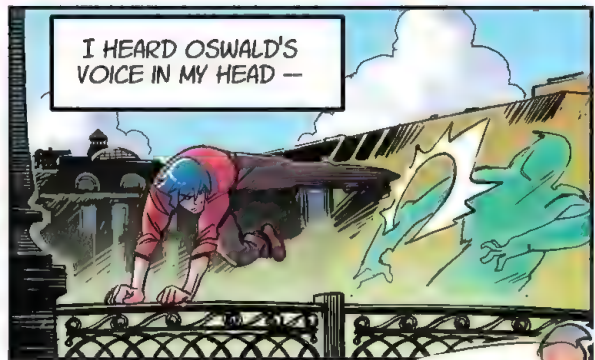
INTERLUDE



IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS
SINCE I GOT TO MOSCOW.
EVERYTHING WAS GOING FINE...



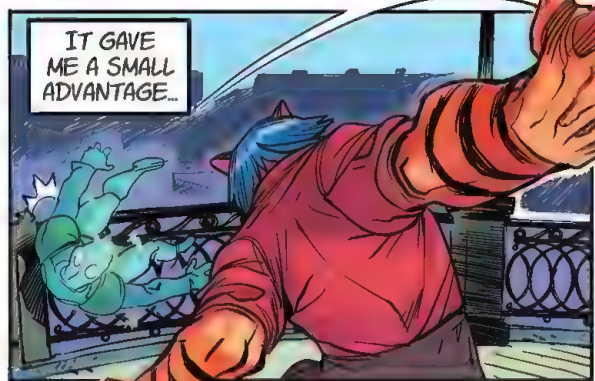
...UNTIL SUDDENLY
IT WASN'T
ANYMORE.



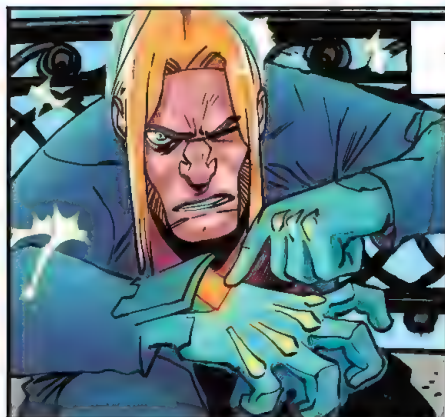
I HEARD OSWALD'S
VOICE IN MY HEAD —



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME
THE RABBIT'S POWER
WARNED ME.



IT GAVE
ME A SMALL
ADVANTAGE...

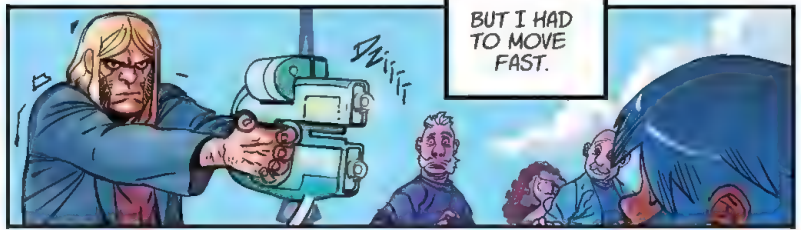


...BUT NOT FOR
LONG.

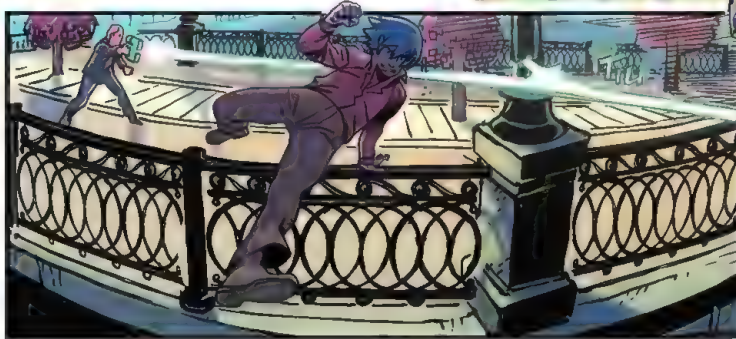




I COULDN'T REALLY SAY IF THAT HURT... MY BODY WAS NUMB.

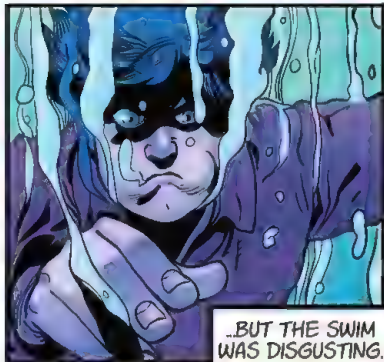


BUT I HAD TO MOVE FAST.

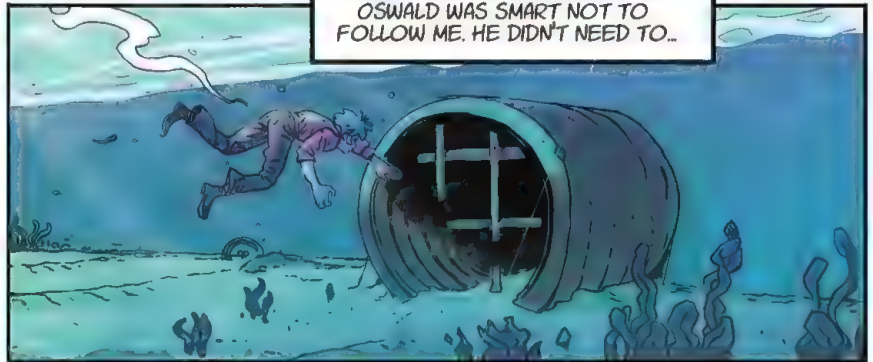


I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF MY TOTEMS LIKED WATER...

LASH



...BUT THE SWIM WAS DISGUSTING.



OSWALD WAS SMART NOT TO FOLLOW ME. HE DIDN'T NEED TO...

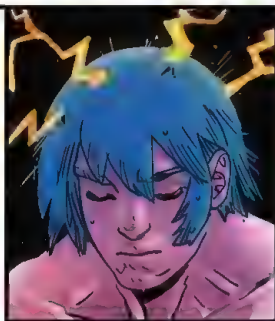


HE KNEW HE WON THE MIND GAME.



I WAS HIS PREY AGAIN.

IT'S ALWAYS IN MY MOST DESPERATE HOURS THAT I DISCOVER MORE ABOUT MY POWERS.



THE BRIEF PSYCHIC CONTACT I HAD WITH OSWALD GAVE ME A GLIMPSE AT HIS MOST RECENT MEMORIES...



IT'S LIKE I HACKED INTO HIS BRAIN.



...INCLUDING HIS ADDRESS IN MOSCOW.



AND IT GAVE ME AN IDEA.



NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, THE BARS NEAR THE TRACKS ARE ALWAYS WHERE YOU CAN FIND THE ACTION.

HEY.



I'M LOOKING TO BUY SOME WEAPONS...

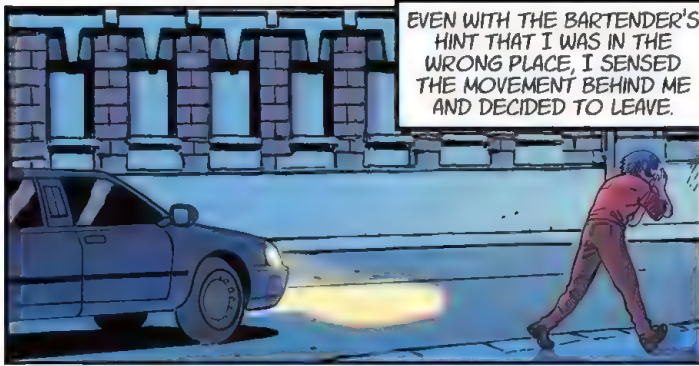
HAH, SURE.

I'M THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.



GOOD. I NEED GUNS. GRENADES. HARD EXPLOSIVES...

YOU'D BE BETTER OFF ORDERING VODKA.



EVEN WITH THE BARTENDER'S HINT THAT I WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE, I SENSED THE MOVEMENT BEHIND ME AND DECIDED TO LEAVE.



THE SMILING FACE THAT PULLED UP BESIDE ME SAID I HAD BEEN IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

GET IN.

THE TWO GUYS TRIED TO SPOOK ME, TO SEE IF I HAD ANY GUTS.



AFTER A WHILE, THEY SAID THEY HAD WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.



BUT I COULD TELL THEY HAD OTHER IDEAS.



I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO READ THEIR MINDS.

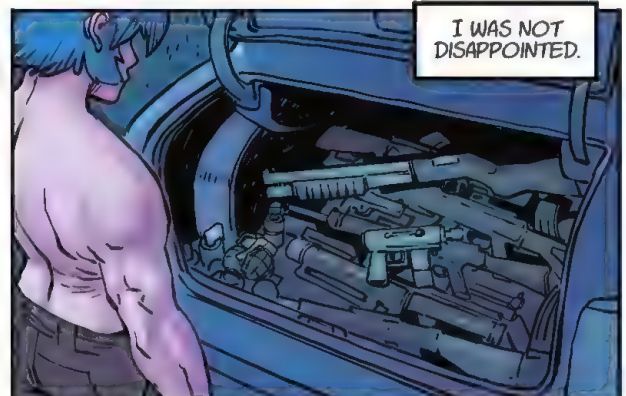
SO I HAD A LITTLE FUN.



MAYBE THEY'LL RE-THINK THE GUN-RUNNING BIZ.



I JUST HOPED I WOULDN'T FIND A BUNCH OF TOYS.

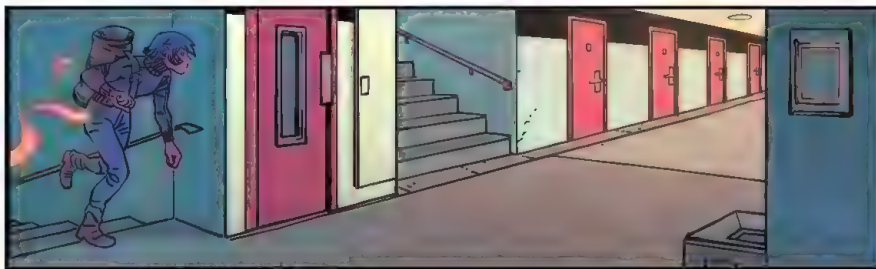


I WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED.

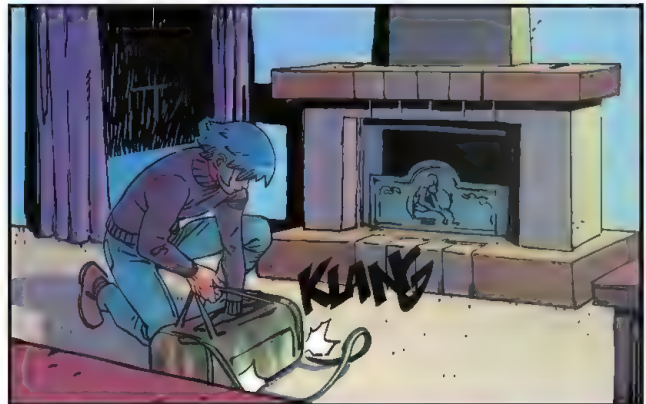
THE LONGEST
PART OF THE
PLAN WAS
WAITING.



AFTERWARDS, I
JUST HAD TO
MOVE FAST...

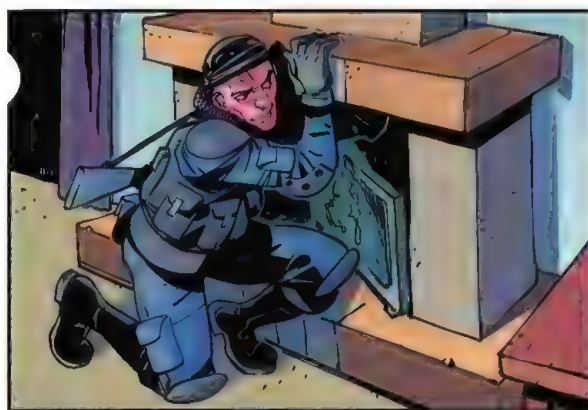
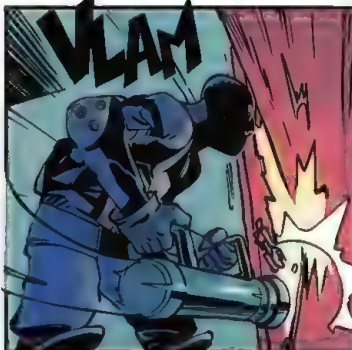


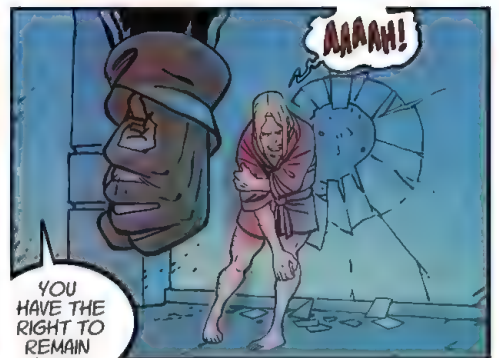
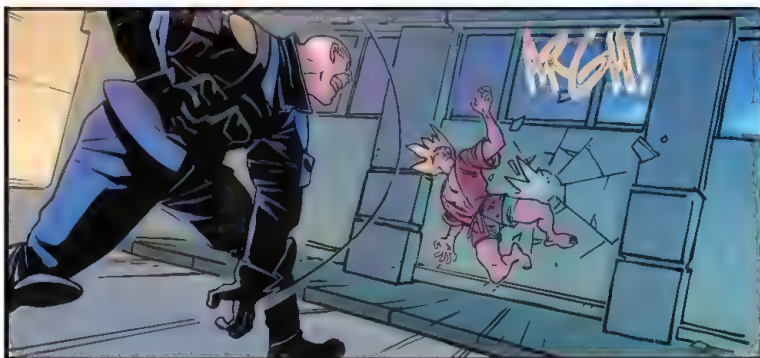
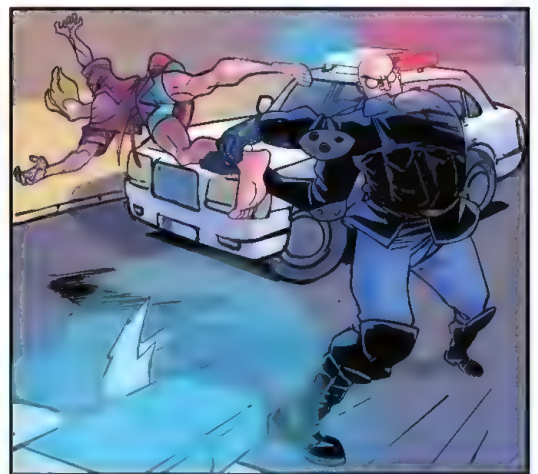
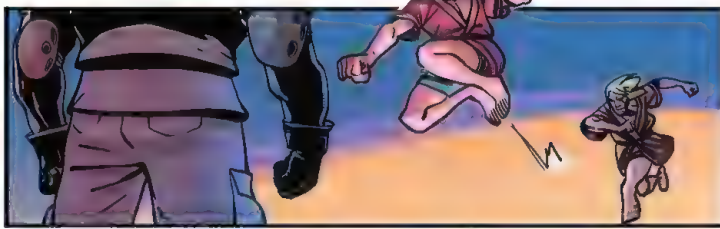
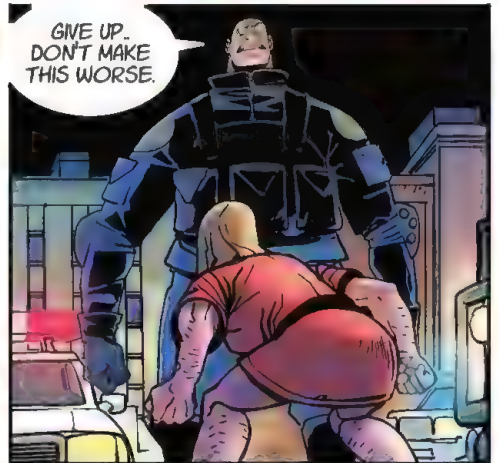
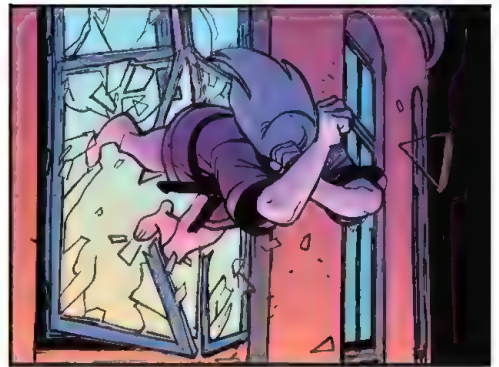
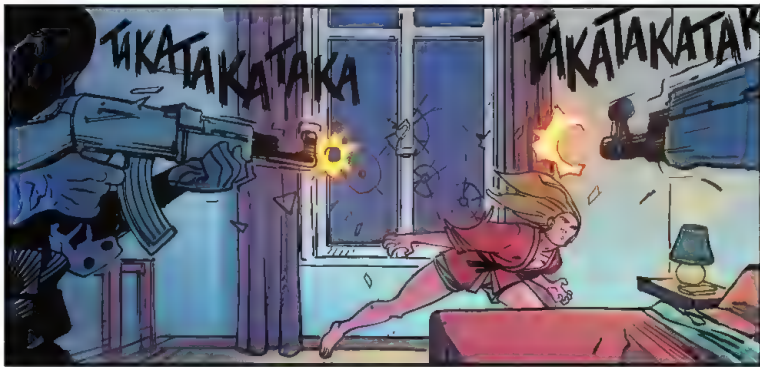
...AND BE SURE NOT
TO LEAVE A TRACE.



THEN IT WAS
BACK TO WAITING.

I COULD HAVE LEFT RIGHT AWAY,
BUT I WANTED TO BE SURE THE
TRAP CLOSED WITH THE GUY
INSIDE.





THREE DAYS LATER



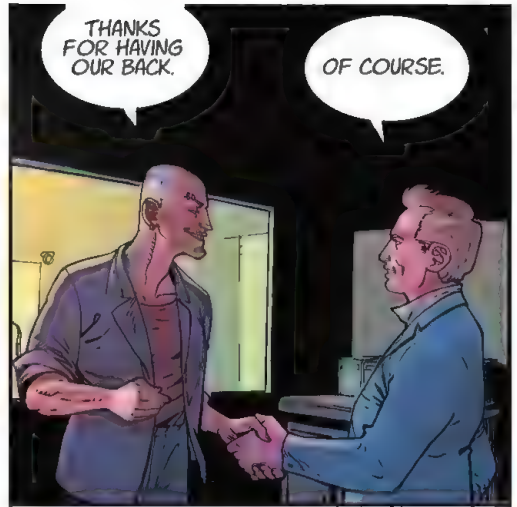
SO YOU'LL BURY HIM IN A CELL FOR A WHILE? WE DON'T NEED ANYONE CUTTING IN ON OUR ACTION.



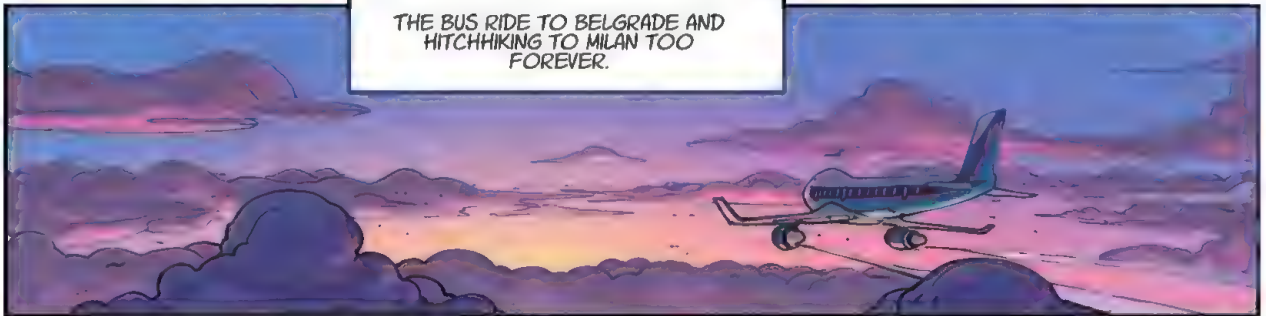
WITH EVERYTHING WE FOUND IN HIS HOTEL ROOM AND HIS RESISTING ARREST, THAT SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM.

THANKS FOR HAVING OUR BACK.

OF COURSE.



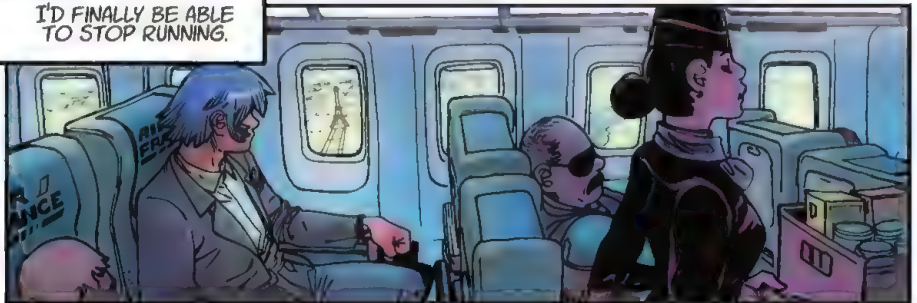
THE BUS RIDE TO BELGRADE AND HITCHHIKING TO MILAN TOO FOREVER.



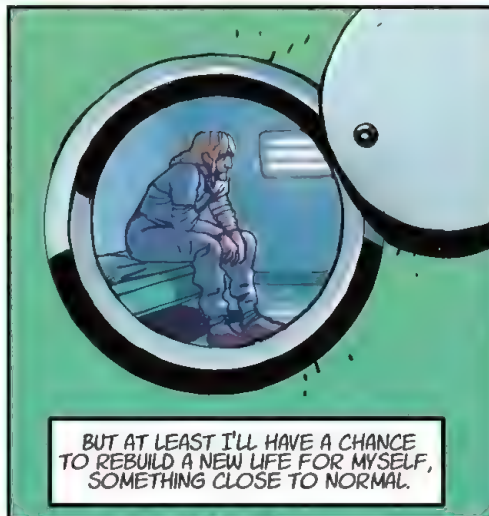
I'D FINALLY BE ABLE TO STOP RUNNING.



BUT MY JOURNEY WAS COMING TO AN END.



I DOUBT I'LL EVER TURN THE PAGE COMPLETELY.



BUT AT LEAST I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO REBUILD A NEW LIFE FOR MYSELF, SOMETHING CLOSE TO NORMAL.

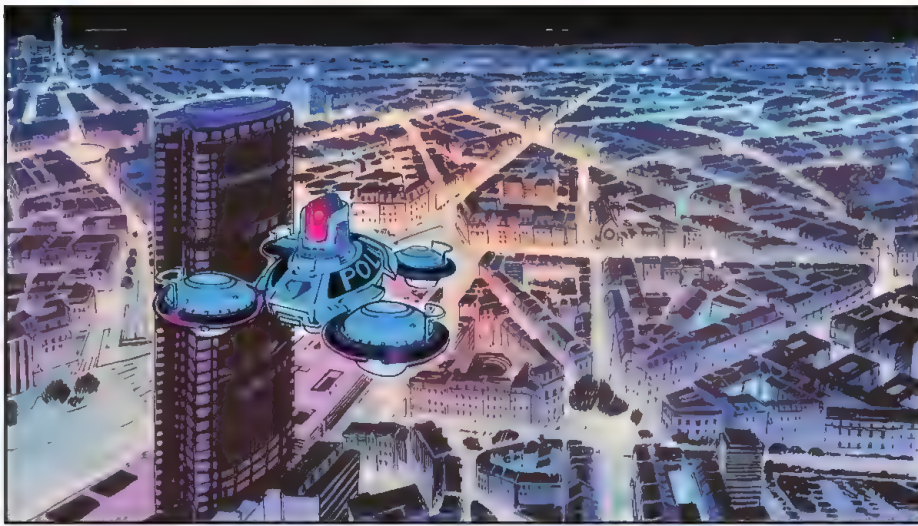


END OF INTERLUDE



PART FIVE: MONKEY





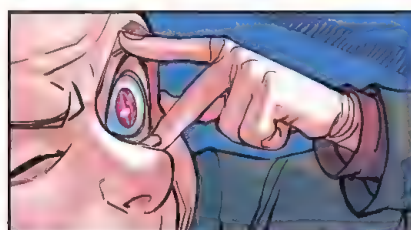
DAMN DRONES.



I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GET SPOOKED AND DISAPPEAR...



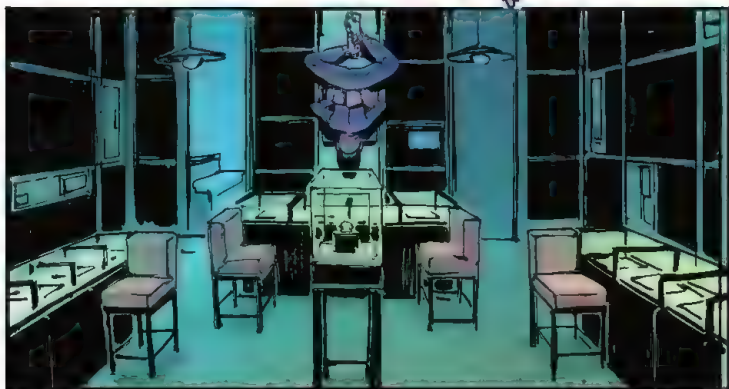
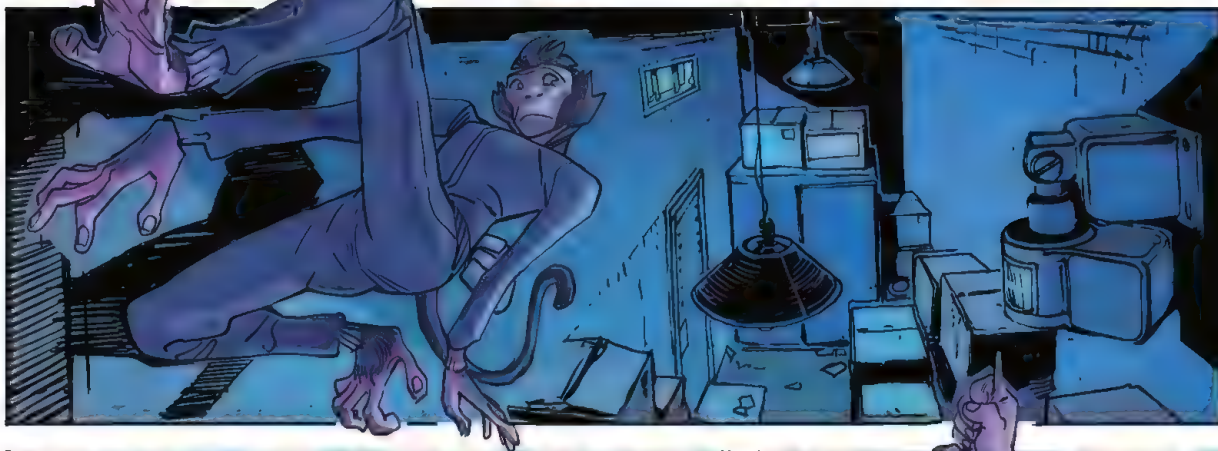
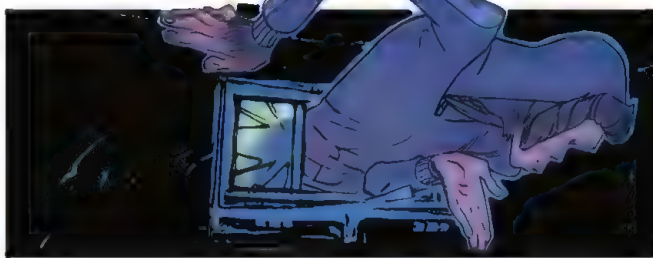
LET'S SEE...

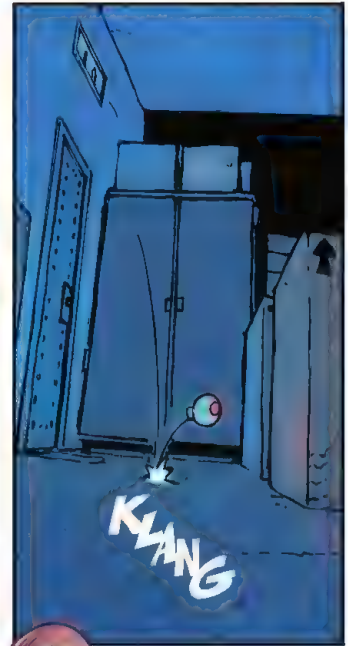
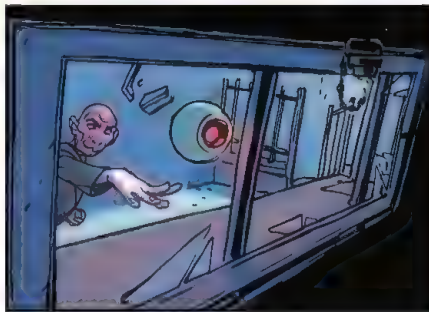
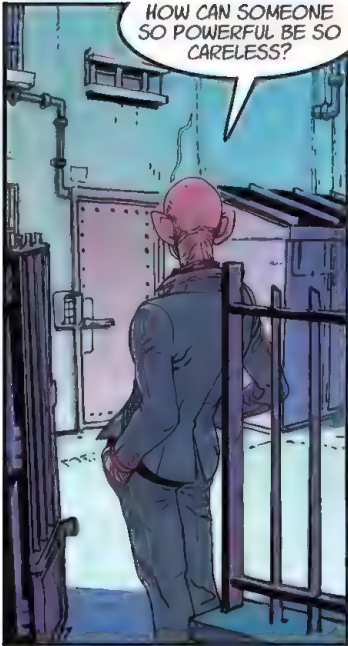
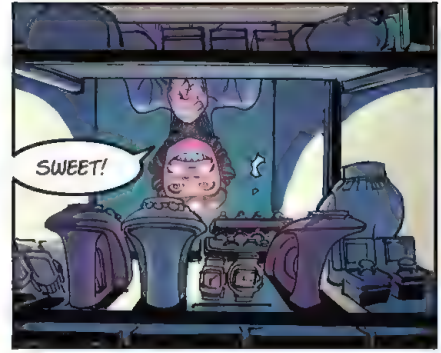
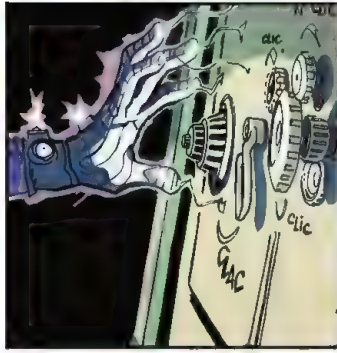


THERE YOU ARE. TWO BLOCKS AWAY.



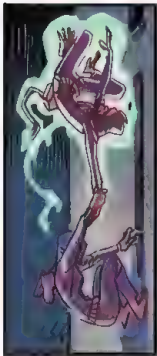
IN TEN MINUTES, YOU'LL BE MINE.

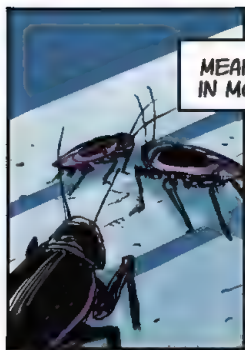




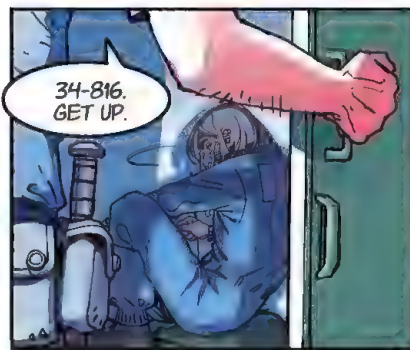
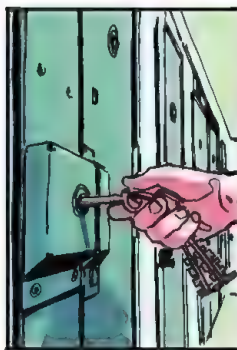


WHAT WOULD YOU
DO WITHOUT ME,
DARLING?





MEANWHILE,
IN MOSCOW



34-816.
GET UP.



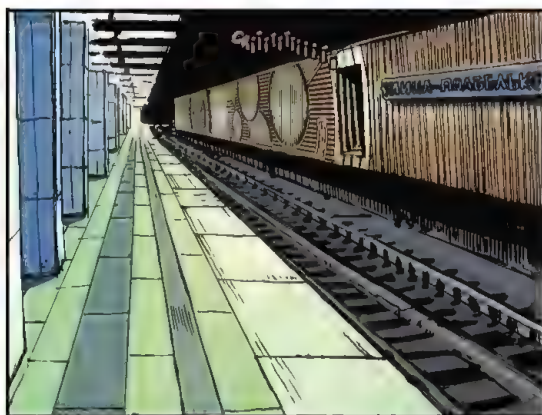
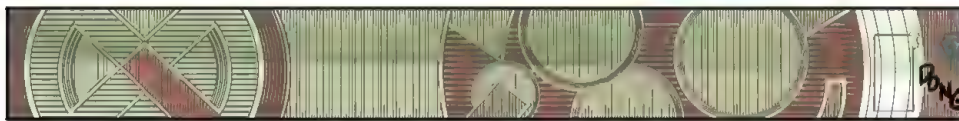
THIS IS
A SURPRISE.
WHAT'S UP?

DON'T
YOU WANT
OUT?

I NEVER
SAID THAT.



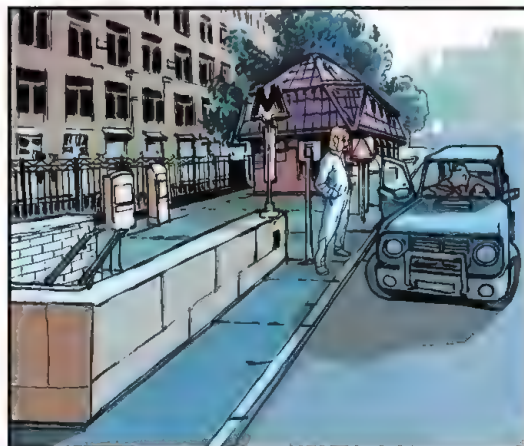
GET
MOVING.

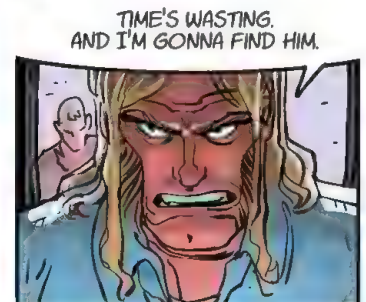
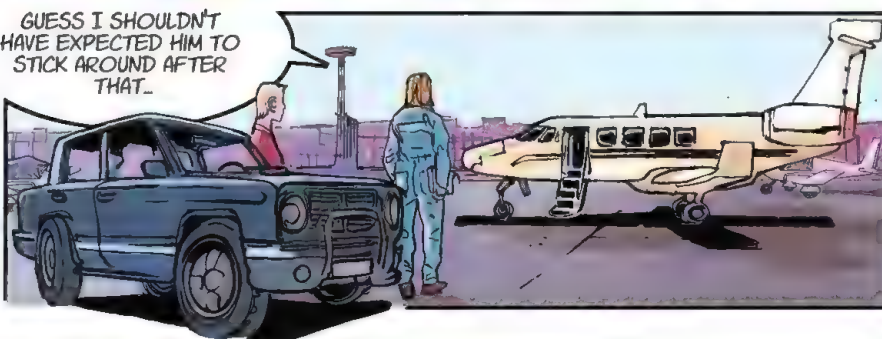
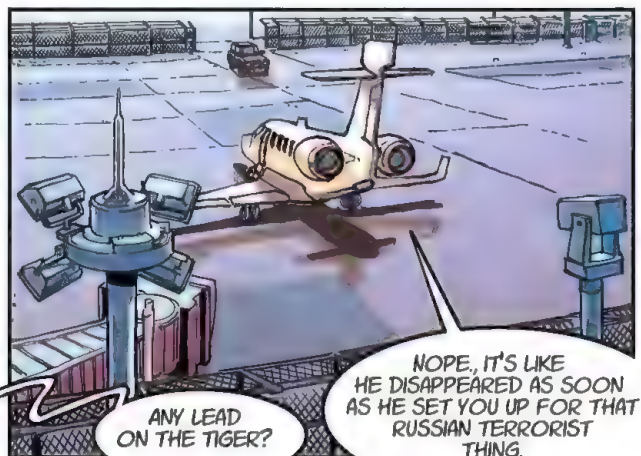
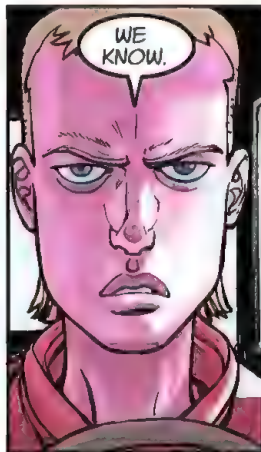
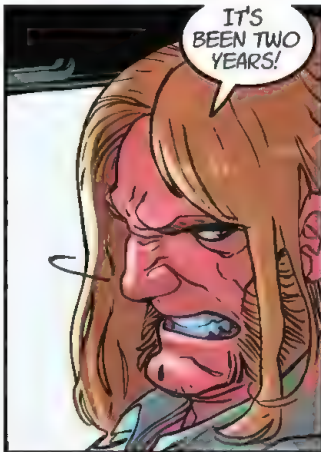
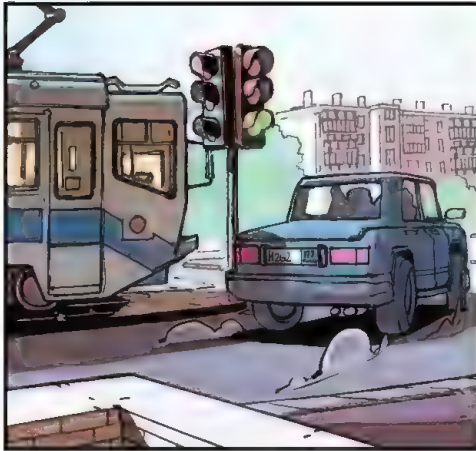


JUST LIKE
THAT?



WHEN YOU
EXIT THE STATION,
A CAR WILL BE
WAITING.

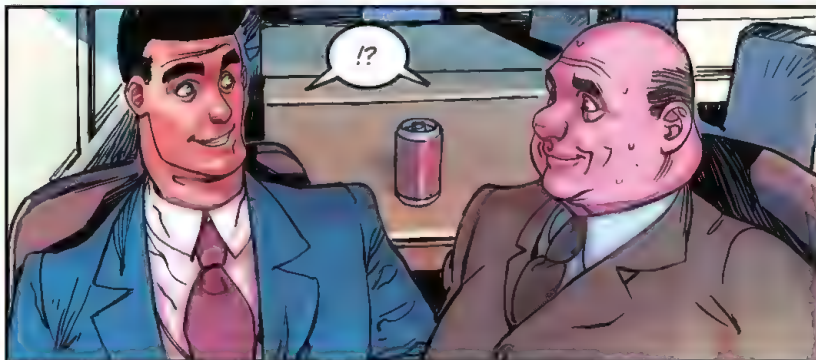
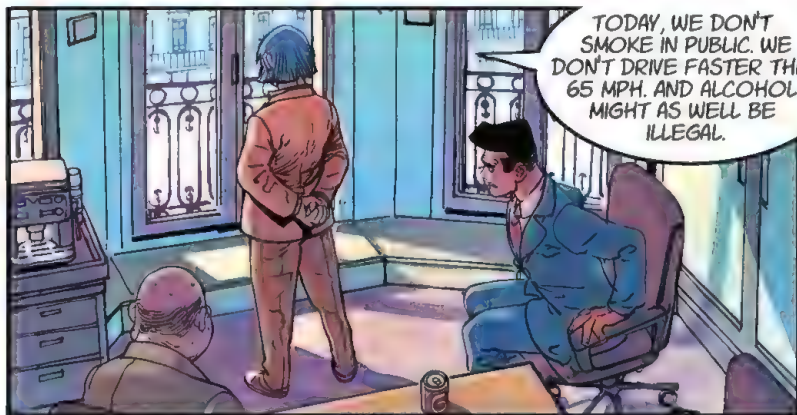


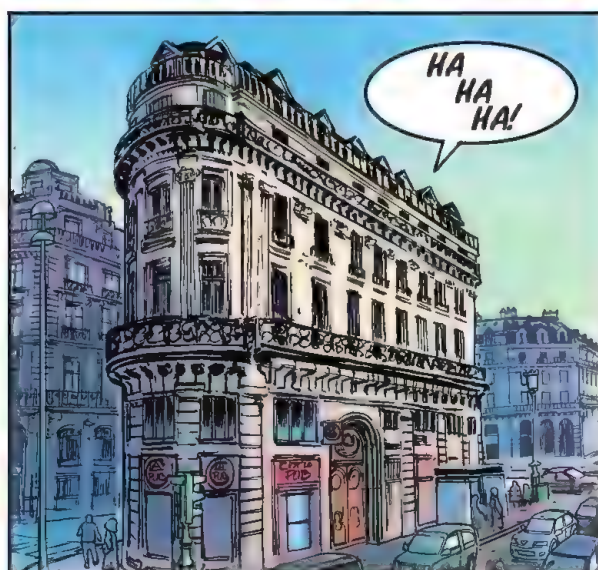
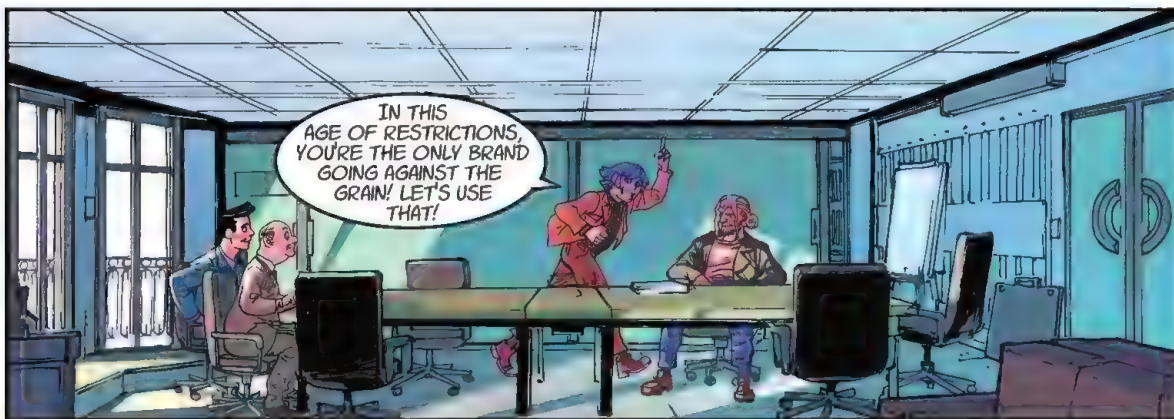


TWO DAYS
LATER



UNDERSTANDABLE.
WHO NEEDS ANOTHER
SUGARY DRINK TO MAKE
THEM FAT AND
GASSY?







HEY, ANGE,
CONGRATS AGAIN!
YOU REALLY
SCORED!

THANKS,
YVES.

G'NIGHT.

I SHOULD PROBABLY
EXPLAIN SOME STUFF.

I SWUNG THROUGH
MOSCOW TO GET
RID OF OSWALD, THEN
I CAME HERE...

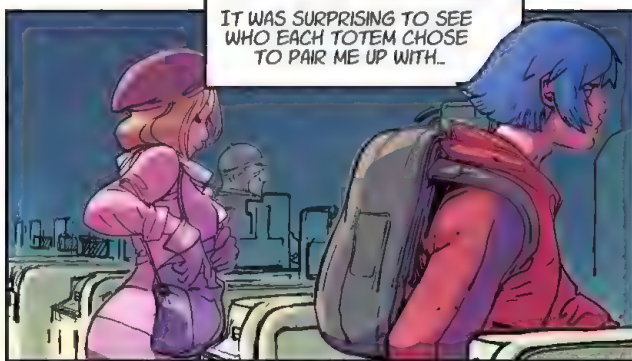
I DECIDED TO REALLY CHANGE MY LIFE. FIRST, I NEEDED
TO FIND A PARTNER TO SHARE MY DIZHI, SO I WOULDN'T
GET SICK LIKE I WAS IN KANGBASHI.



IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS
SINCE I LEFT LISA BEHIND
IN CHINA.



...I ALWAYS
WANTED TO
SEE PARIS!



IT WAS SURPRISING TO SEE
WHO EACH TOTEM CHOSE
TO PAIR ME UP WITH...



...AND NOW I HAVE
THREE DIFFERENT
PARTNERS.

BUT I'LL
INTRODUCE
THEM LATER.



ONLY THREE, WHICH MEANS THAT
ONE DIZHI - THE HORSE - HAS
YET TO FIND A SUITABLE SECOND.



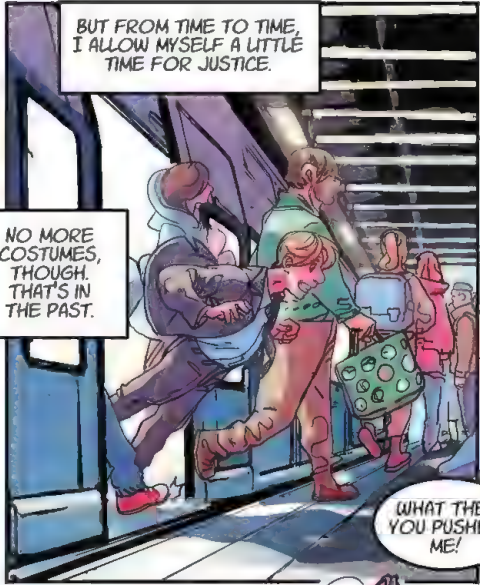
BUT THAT
HASN'T BEEN
A PROBLEM. I
FEEL A LOT
BETTER. I'VE
FOUND BALANCE
AGAIN.

MY JOB, WHILE NOT IDEAL, AT LEAST GIVES ME A SENSE OF NORMALCY.

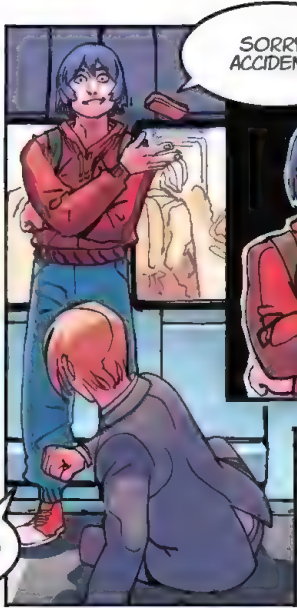


BUT FROM TIME TO TIME, I ALLOW MYSELF A LITTLE TIME FOR JUSTICE.

NO MORE COSTUMES, THOUGH. THAT'S IN THE PAST.



WHAT THE... YOU PUSHED ME!



SORRY, ACCIDENT.

SURE IT WAS -- TELL IT TO MY FRIEND!



I PREFER TO BE A BIT MORE DISCREET NOW.

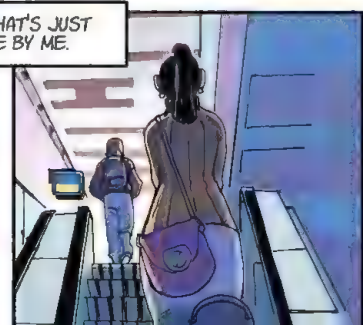
OF COURSE, WITHOUT "THE KLAU" IN THE NEWS FIGHTING CRIME...

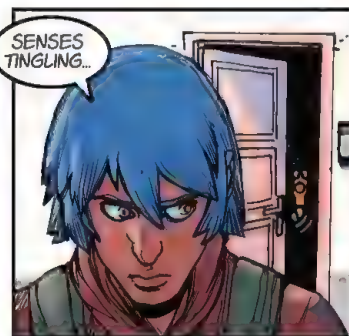
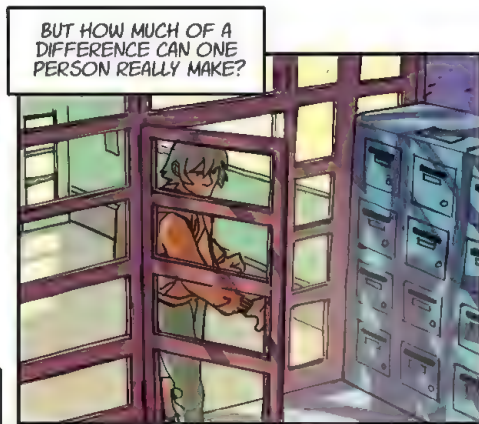
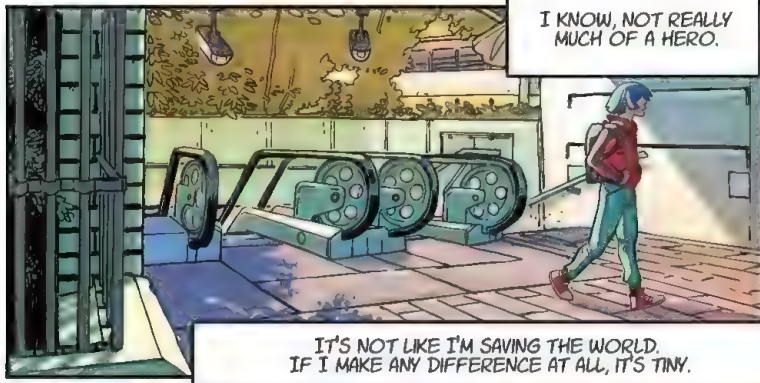


...THE BAD GUYS AREN'T AFRAID



BUT THAT'S JUST FINE BY ME.







ARE YOU HOME ALONE?

WHY? YOU WANNA TALK TO MOM?



NOT REALLY. BUT IF YOU'RE HOME ALL BY YOURSELF, MAYBE YOU COULD HELP ME FINISH THE POPCORN I WAS PLANNING TO MAKE...

TO WATCH A MOVIE?

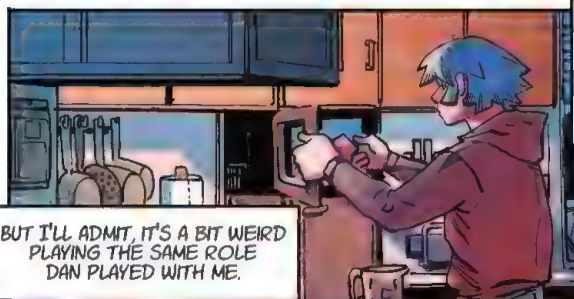


NOT JUST ANY MOVIE — "SHAOLIN SOCCER"!

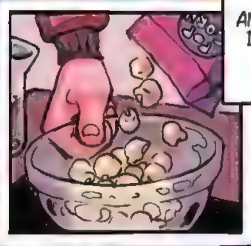


I'LL LEAVE MOM A NOTE! YOU START THE POPCORN!

YOU GOT IT.

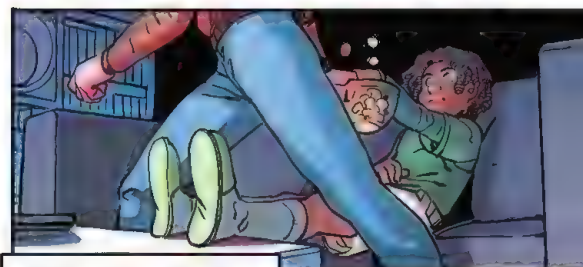


BUT I'LL ADMIT, IT'S A BIT WEIRD PLAYING THE SAME ROLE DAN PLAYED WITH ME.

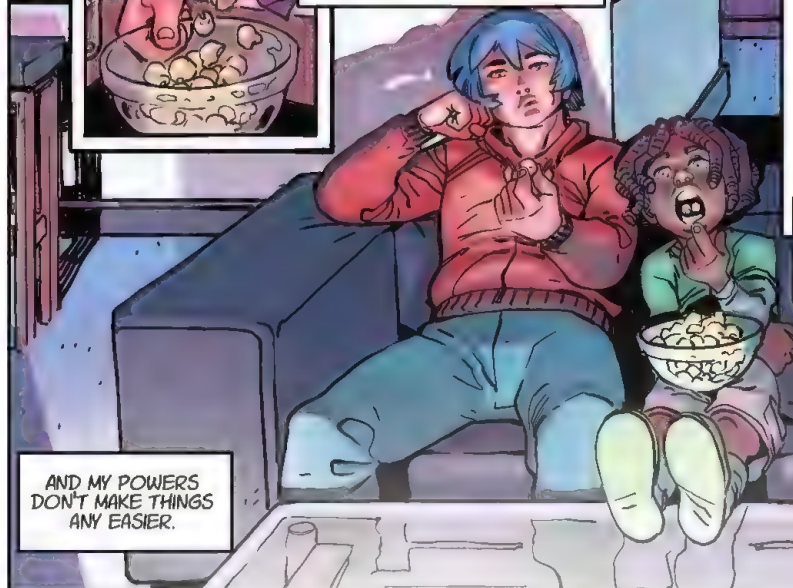


AND I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL — DENIS IS STARTING TO THINK I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIS MOM...

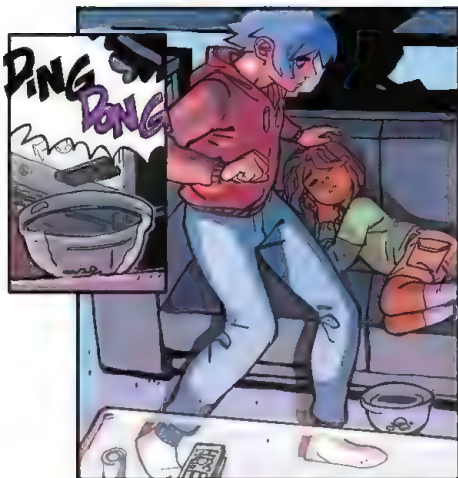
I'LL STOP YOU RIGHT THERE. DENIS IS NOT ONE OF MY PARTNERS. HE'S JUST A COOL KID. HIS MOTHER IS A NURSE WHO LEAVES HIM ALONE TOO OFTEN FOR MY TASTE.



EVER SINCE I LEFT USA, I'VE BEEN CAREFUL WITH RELATIONSHIPS. TOO COMPLICATED.



AND MY POWERS DON'T MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER.



HEY. I THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE A PACKAGE FOR ME?



YEAH, HE FELL ASLEEP DURING THE MOVIE.

COME ON, BIG GUY. TIME TO GO HOME.

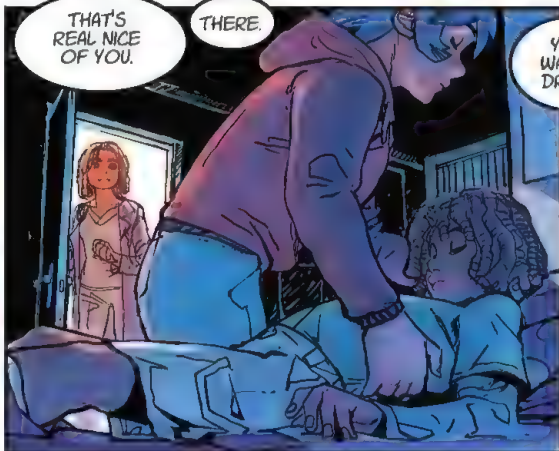


I CAN CARRY HIM.



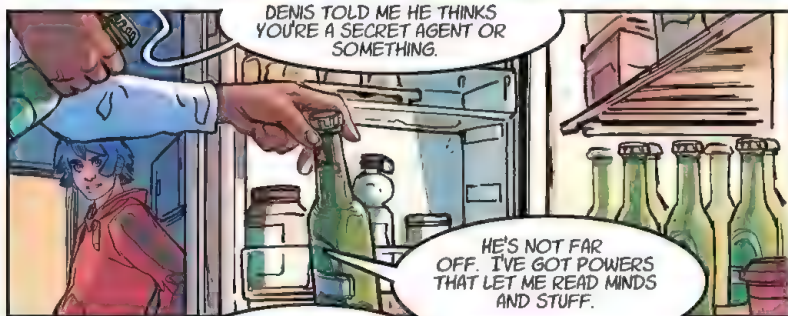
THAT'S REAL NICE OF YOU.

THERE.



YOU WANT A DRINK?

SURE, WHY NOT?



DENIS TOLD ME HE THINKS YOU'RE A SECRET AGENT OR SOMETHING.

HE'S NOT FAR OFF. I'VE GOT POWERS THAT LET ME READ MINDS AND STUFF.

OH? SO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING RIGHT NOW?

YES, MA'AM.



YOU'RE THINKING IT'S REALLY LATE AND YOU'RE WONDERING HOW LONG I'M GOING TO HANG AROUND AND KEEP YOU FROM GOING TO BED.

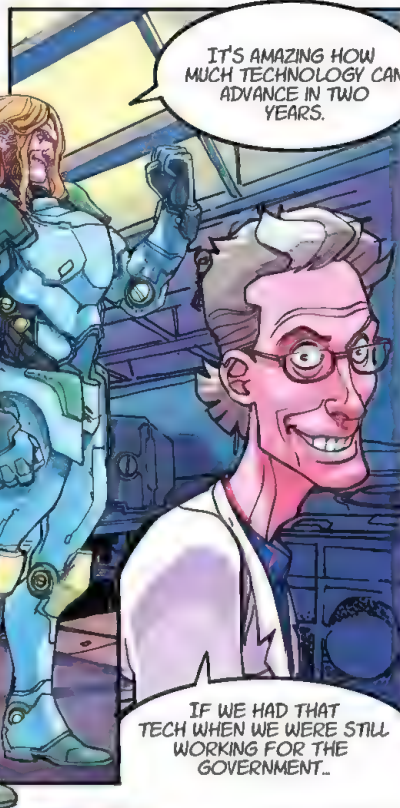
WHOA, BRAVO!

NEAT TRICK.



I HOPE YOU LIKE IT. NO MORE INTERFACE — YOU CAN CONTROL IT WITH JUST A THOUGHT!

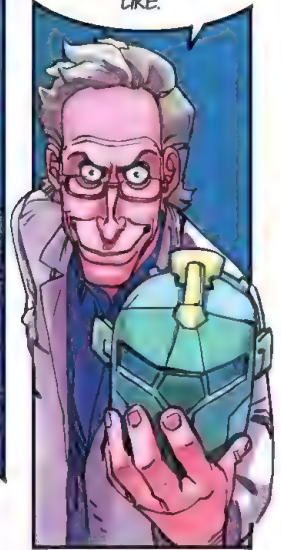
PERFECT! GREAT WORK.



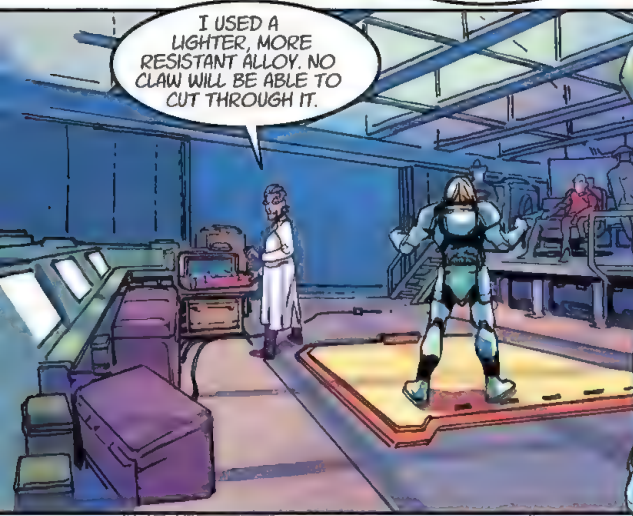
IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH TECHNOLOGY CAN ADVANCE IN TWO YEARS.

THAT TECH AND THIS MONEY!

HERE, TRY ON THE HELMET. I'VE ADDED A FEATURE I THINK YOU'LL REALLY LIKE.



IF WE HAD THAT TECH WHEN WE WERE STILL WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT...

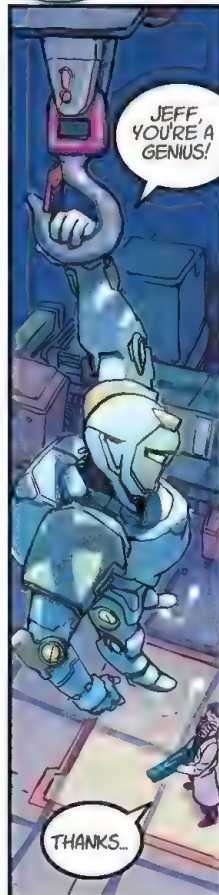
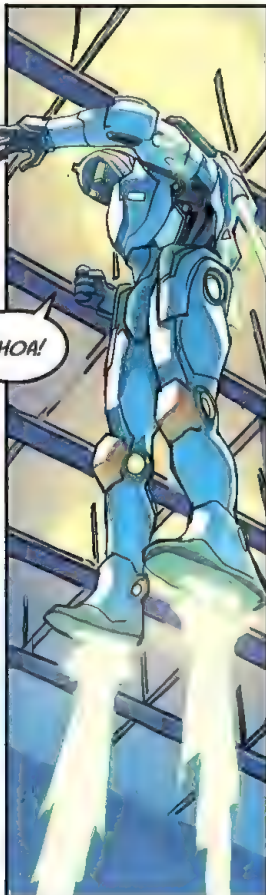


I USED A LIGHTER, MORE RESISTANT ALLOY. NO CLAW WILL BE ABLE TO CUT THROUGH IT.

JUST LOOK UP AND FIND AN OBJECT THAT'S REALLY HIGH.



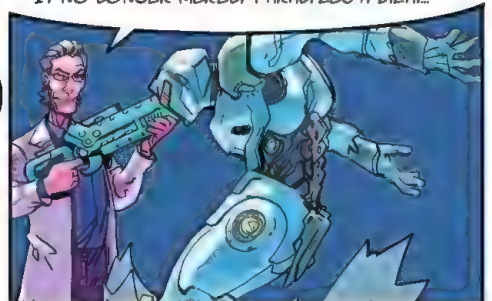
WHOA!



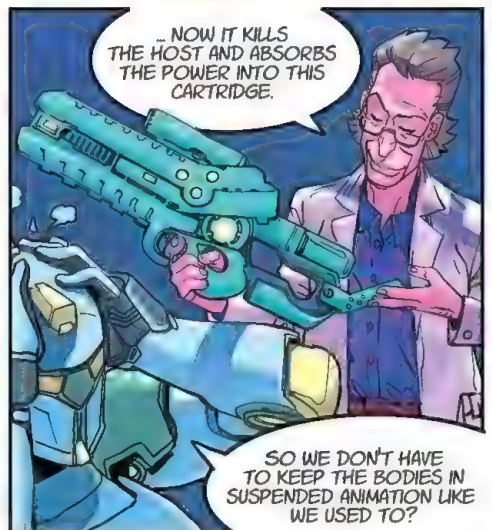
JEFF, YOU'RE A GENIUS!

THANKS...

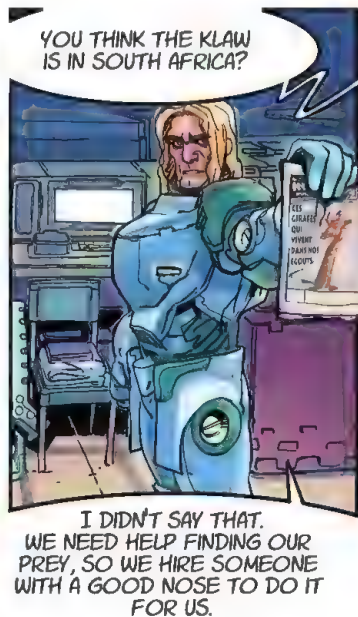
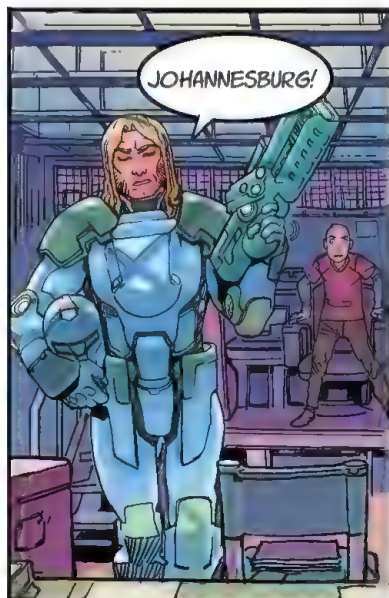
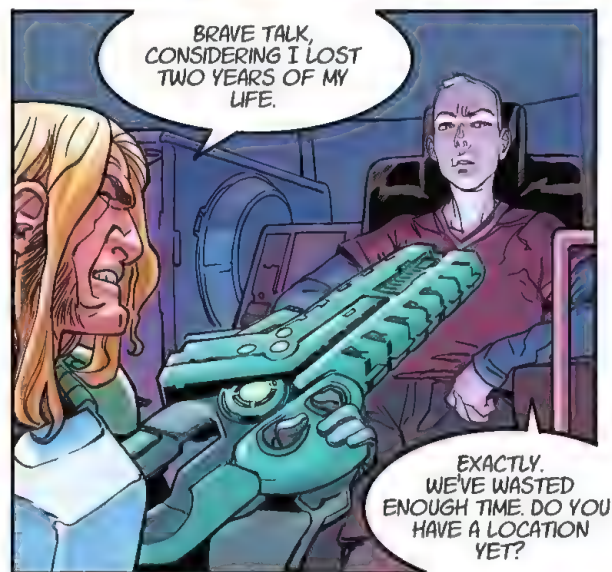
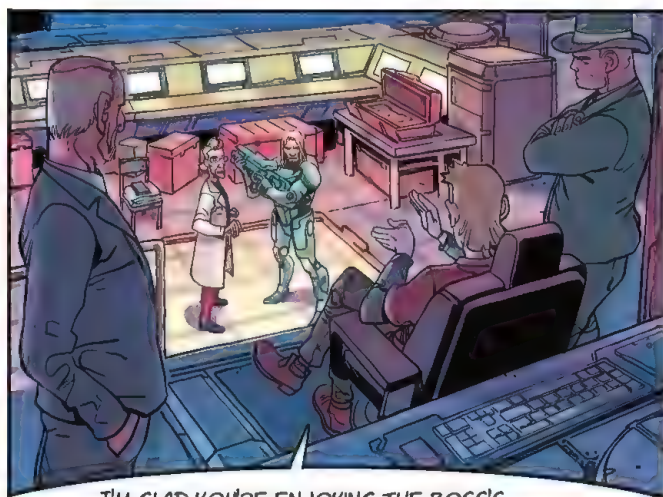
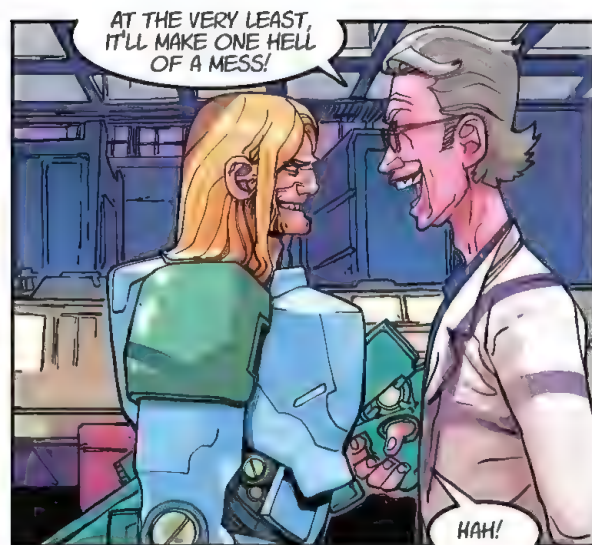
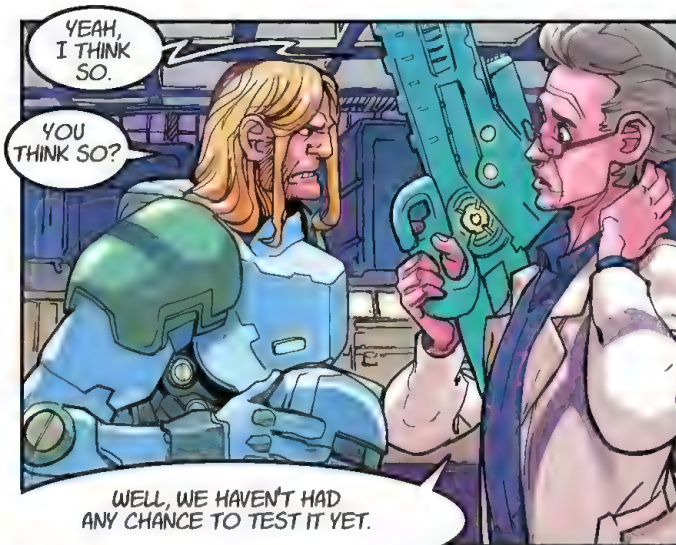
I ALSO UPGRADED YOUR WEAPON. IT NO LONGER MERELY PARALYZES A DIZHI..



... NOW IT KILLS THE HOST AND ABSORBS THE POWER INTO THIS CARTRIDGE.



SO WE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP THE BODIES IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION LIKE WE USED TO?





DOES ANYONE BELIEVE WHAT THEY READ THESE DAYS?

IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?

PLEASE!



YOU'RE NADEGE, RIGHT?

YES, I'M IN PACKAGING...



ANYTHING INTERESTING IN THE NEWS TODAY?

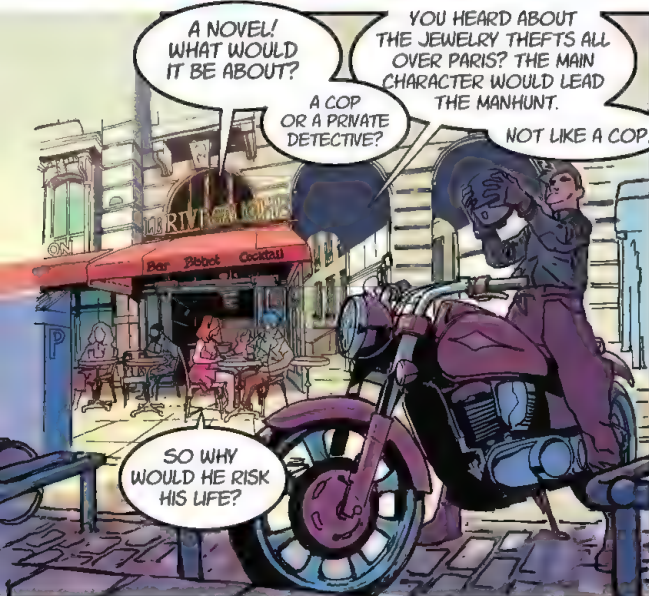


CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?

CROSS MY HEART.



I'M THINKING ABOUT WRITING A NOVEL ON THE SIDE. I'M READING THE PAPER FOR SOME INSPIRATION.



A NOVEL! WHAT WOULD IT BE ABOUT?

A COP OR A PRIVATE DETECTIVE?

YOU HEARD ABOUT THE JEWELRY THEFTS ALL OVER PARIS? THE MAIN CHARACTER WOULD LEAD THE MANHUNT.

NOT LIKE A COP.

SO WHY WOULD HE RISK HIS LIFE?



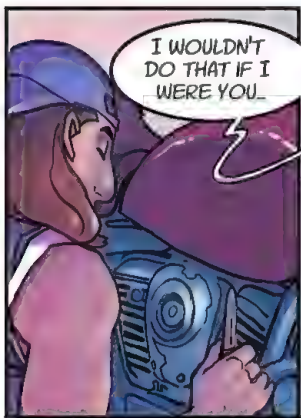
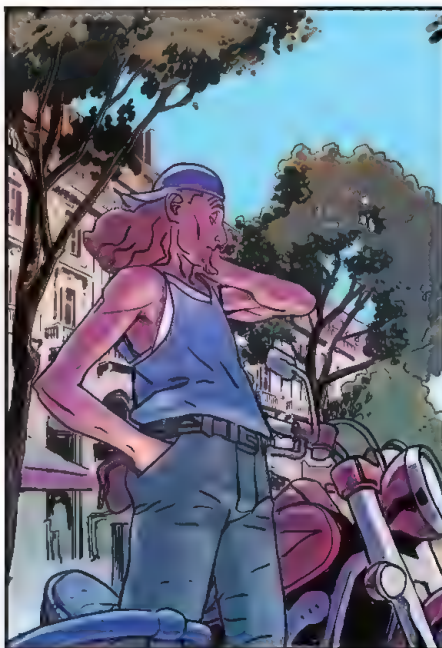
BOREDOM.

OH... CAN I BUY YOU ANOTHER?

THANKS, BUT I HAVE TO GET GOING.

SEE YOU AT WORK ON MONDAY!





I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU.



WHA?



WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

I'M JUST TELLING YOU, IN TEN SECONDS, TWO COPS ARE GOING TO LEAVE THE RESTAURANT BEHIND ME. THEY'D CATCH YOU STEALING THAT BIKE RED-HANDED.

YOU'LL TRY TO RUN, BUT THEY'LL CATCH YOU AND YOU'LL GO TO JAIL.



YOU'RE FULL OF IT.



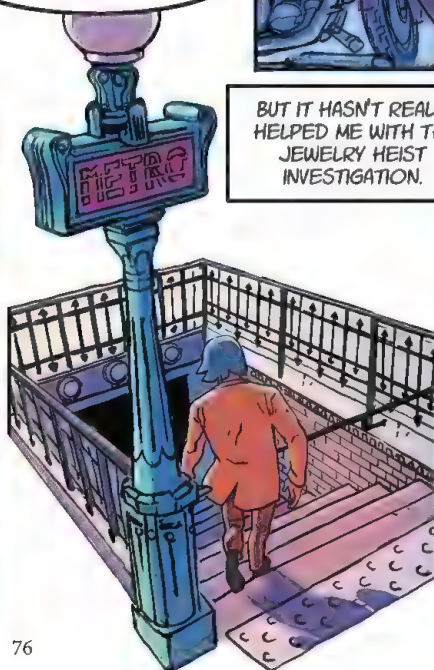
YOU'LL SEE.

OH, CRAP!



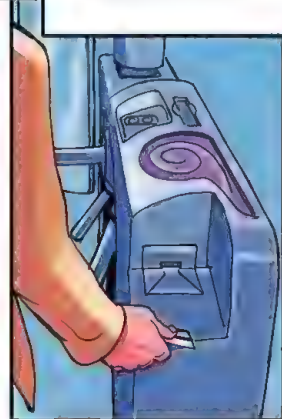
I GOTTA ADMIT, I LOVE THE RABBIT'S POWER.

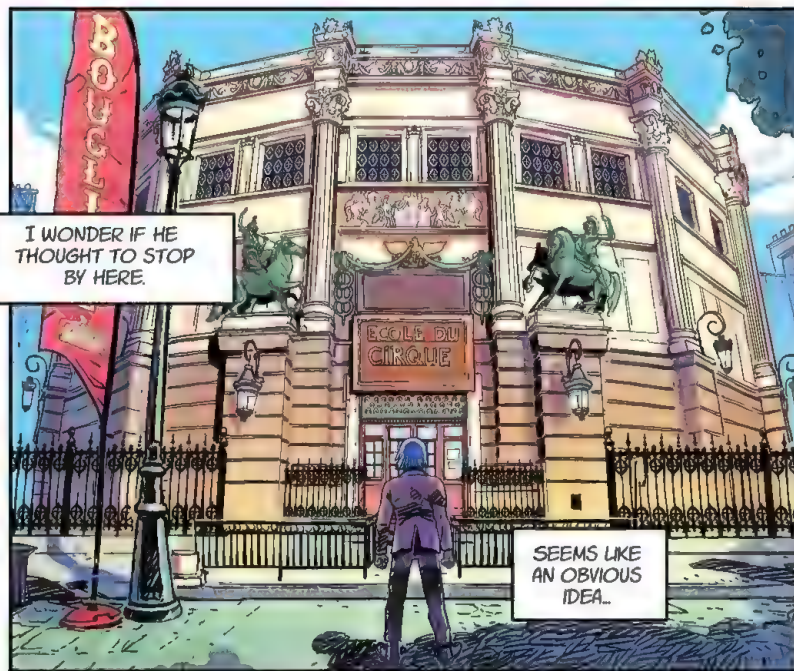
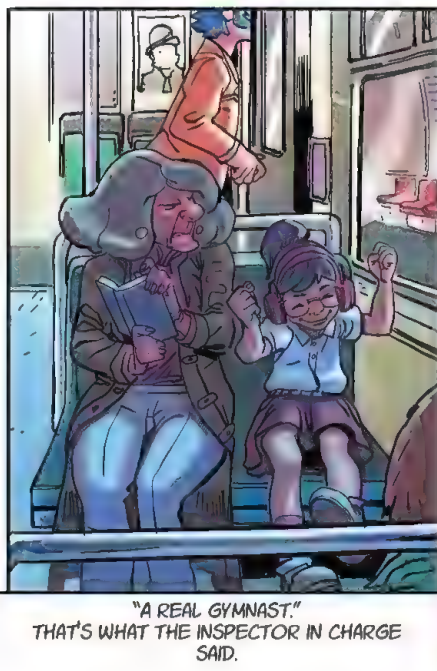
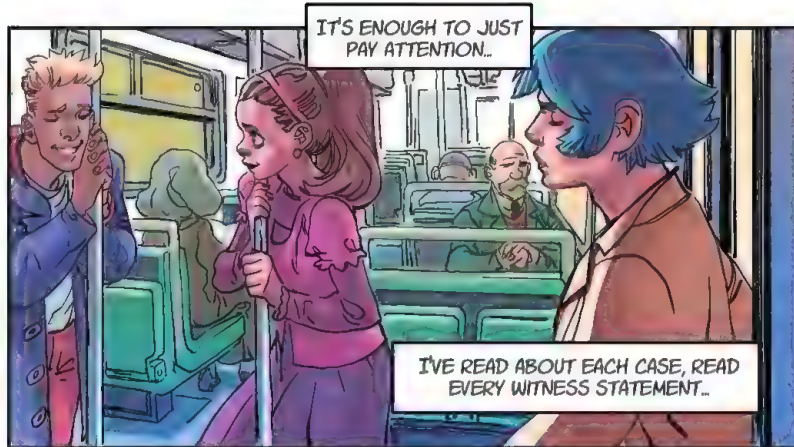
SEEING THE FUTURE IS KINDA FUN, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY FIVE MINUTES AHEAD.



BUT IT HASN'T REALLY HELPED ME WITH THE JEWELRY HEIST INVESTIGATION.

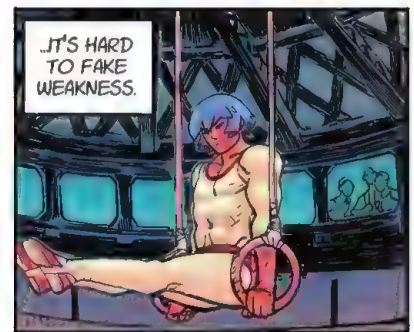
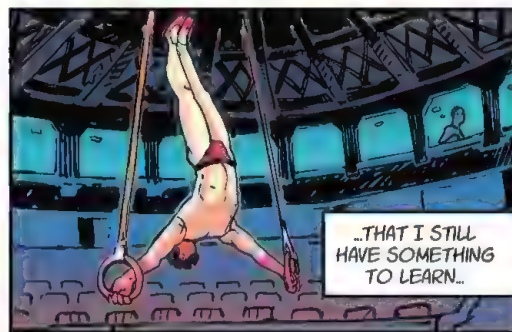
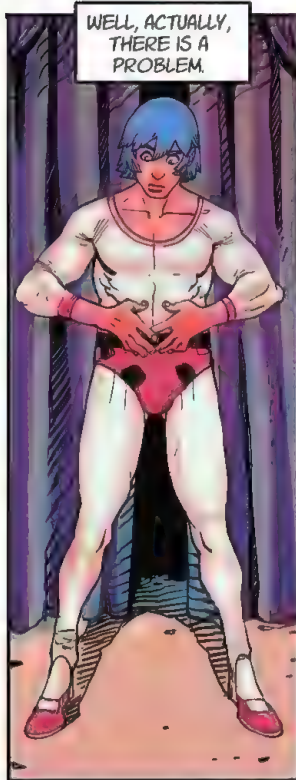
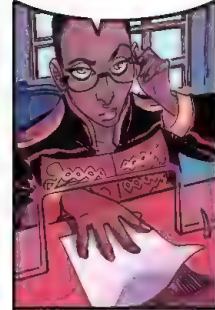
I DID TELL MYSELF NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN SOMETHING SO HIGH-PROFILE...

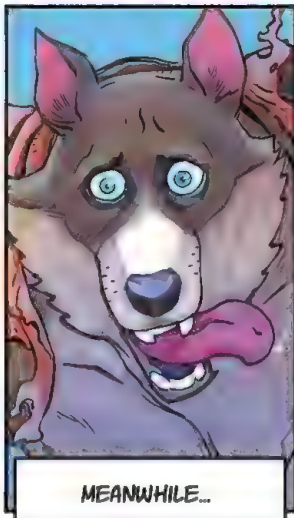






YOU CAN FILL OUT AN APPLICATION, BUT WILL HAVE TO PASS A BASIC PROFICIENCY TEST.





MEANWHILE...



...IN JOHANNESBURG.

ARF...
ARF...



COME BACK, DOGGY!



DON'T BE STUPID, PUP. THE BOSS IS ASKIN' FOR YOU.

AND YOU KNOW HOW MAD HE CAN GET.



YOU SHOULD BE FLATTERED HE'S ASKIN' --

AAAH!



SON OF A...

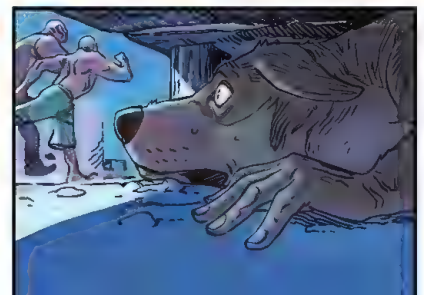
?!



COME BACK HERE!



I'M GONNA KILL YOU FOR THAT!





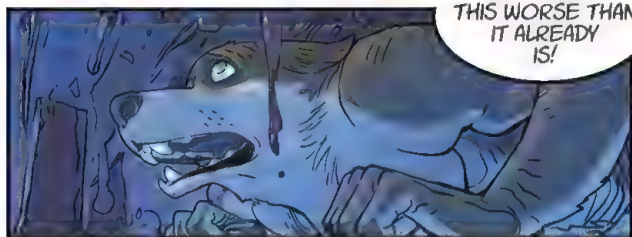
SHOW YOURSELF, DOG!



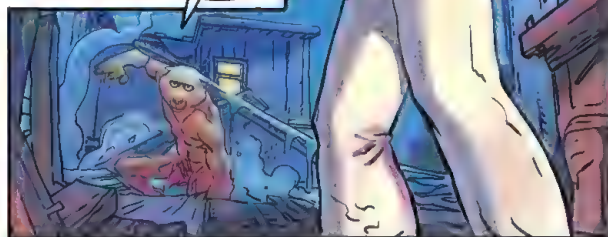
OKAY, OKAY...



GOOD BOY.



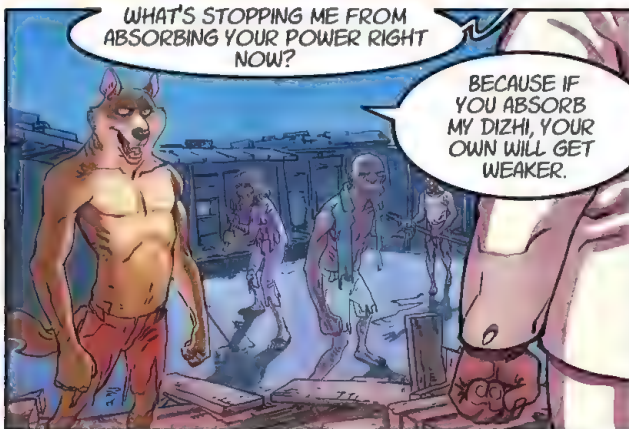
DON'T MAKE THIS WORSE THAN IT ALREADY IS!



TAKE IT EASY, I'VE GOT FRIENDS...



WHAT, THESE HOBOS? YOU WANNA START A WAR?



WHAT'S STOPPING ME FROM ABSORBING YOUR POWER RIGHT NOW?

BECAUSE IF YOU ABSORB MY DIZHI, YOUR OWN WILL GET WEAKER.

TRUE, YOU ARE A BIT TOO DOCILE FOR ME...



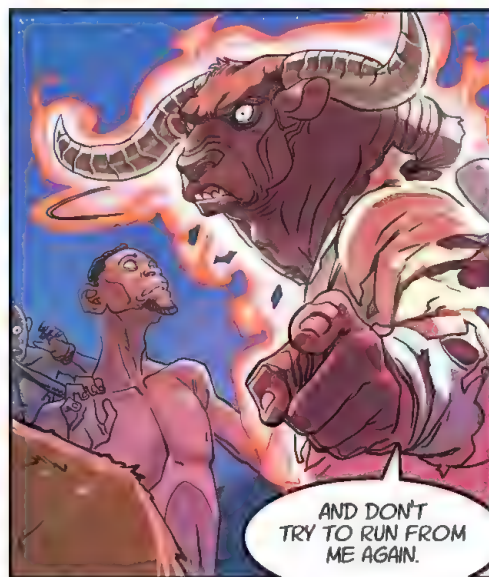
BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO DISRESPECT OUR AGREEMENT. I WANT MORE POWER. YOU PROMISED TO FIND ME MORE DIZHI.

I... I'VE BEEN BUSY...

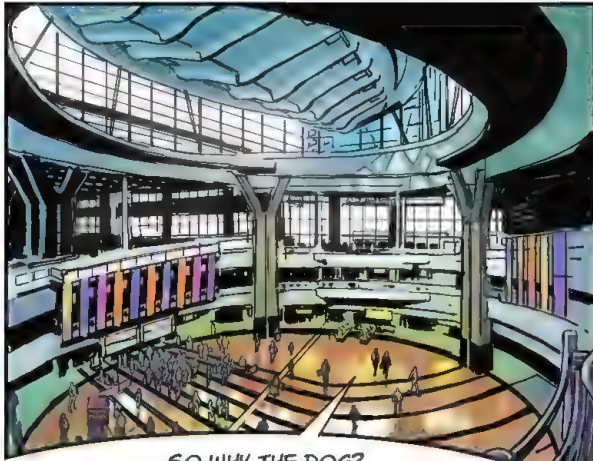
YOU'VE GOT TEN DAYS. THAT'S IT. THEN YOUR DIZHI IS MINE.



EVEN IF I HAVE TO CHOKE IT DOWN.



AND DON'T TRY TO RUN FROM ME AGAIN.



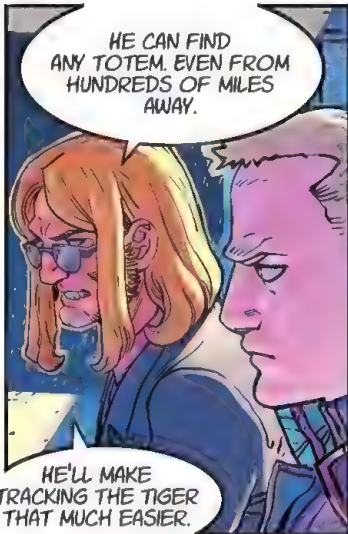
SO WHY THE DOG?
SEEMS LIKE A WEAK DIZHI, AND LET ME REMIND
YOU THAT MISTER TOMASSINI IS WAITING FOR RESULTS.
HE ONLY CARES ABOUT CAPTURING "THE KLAW."



I TOLD YOU
ALREADY — SOMETIMES
THE DIRECT PATH ISN'T
THE FASTEST.



THE DOG IS
DEFINITELY THE WEAKEST
AND STUPIDEST COWARD
OF ALL THE DIZHI, BUT
HE'S OUR BEST
BET.



HE CAN FIND
ANY TOTEM, EVEN FROM
HUNDREDS OF MILES
AWAY.

HE'LL MAKE
TRACKING THE TIGER
THAT MUCH EASIER.



WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK HE'LL
WANT TO WORK
WITH US?

WHO SAID
WE'D GIVE HIM
A CHOICE?

HA.

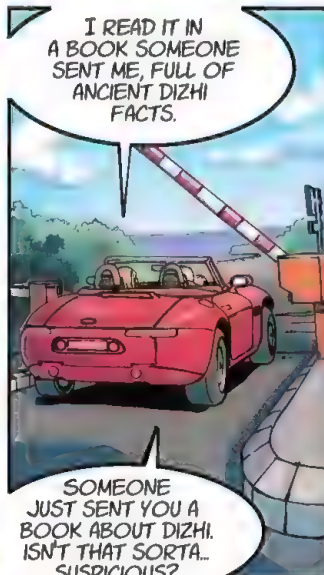


WHAT?

NOTHING,
I JUST LIKE THE
WAY YOU THINK.



BUT ONE THING I DON'T
UNDERSTAND IS HOW YOU KNOW
SO MUCH ABOUT THE DIZHI. DID ONE
OF THEM TELL YOU ALL
OF THIS?



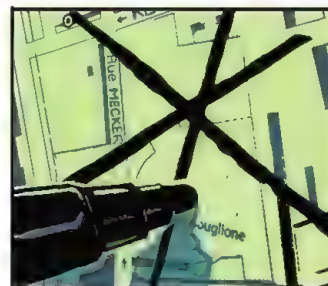
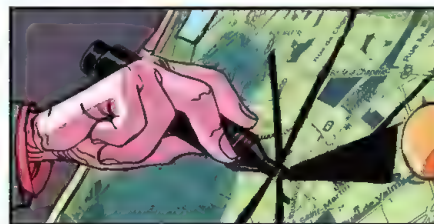
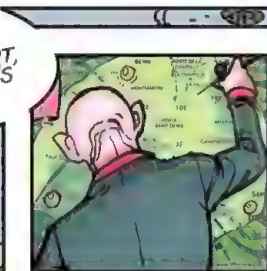
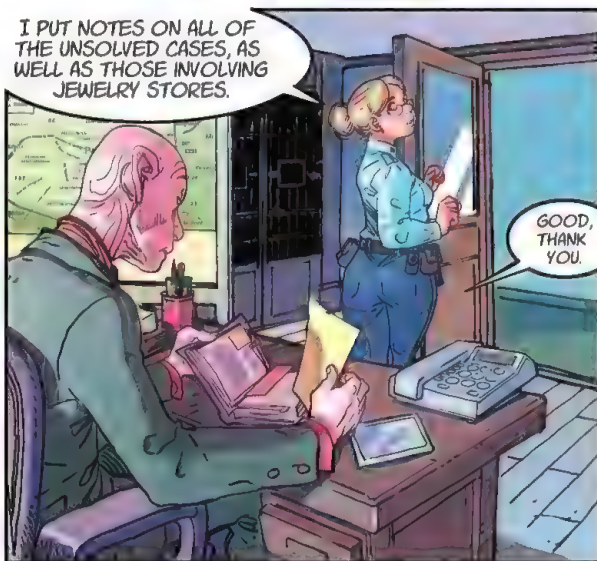
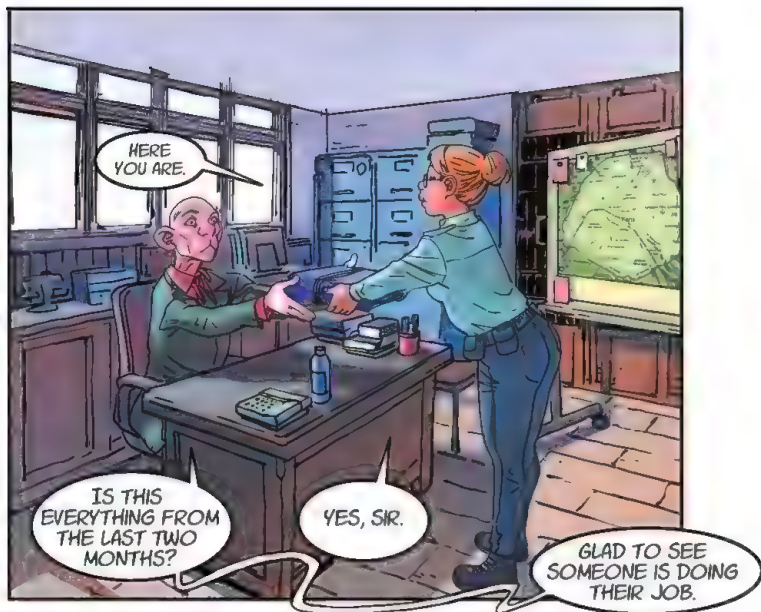
I READ IT IN
A BOOK SOMEONE
SENT ME, FULL OF
ANCIENT DIZHI
FACTS.

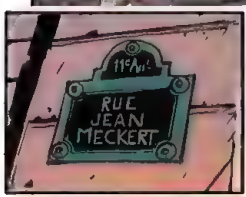
SOMEONE
JUST SENT YOU A
BOOK ABOUT DIZHI.
ISN'T THAT SORTA...
SUSPICIOUS?



IT WAS AN OLD BOOK.
FAR TOO OLD TO BE WRITTEN
JUST FOR ME. I BELIEVE IT'S ONE
HUNDRED PERCENT AUTHENTIC.

BUT I'M NOT AN IDIOT.
I'M SURE SOMEONE SENT IT
TO ME FOR A REASON...





HEY,
NEW GUY!



HI.

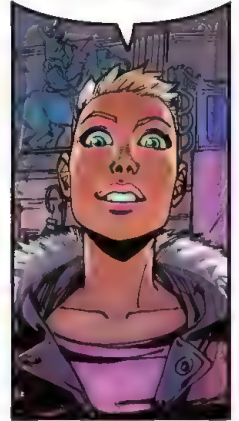
WHAT'S
UP?



MY FRIENDS AND
I SAW YOUR TRYOUT.
WELCOME ABOARD.

THANKS, BUT I HAVEN'T
GOTTEN AN ANSWER BACK YET.

SERIOUSLY?
IF THEY DON'T ACCEPT
YOU, THEY MIGHT AS WELL
CLOSE SHOP.



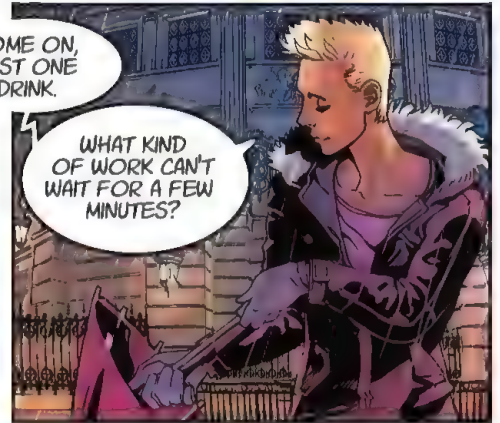
WE WERE
WONDERING IF YOU'D
LIKE TO GET A DRINK
WITH US? YOU CAN
MEET EVERYONE.



THAT'S NICE
OF YOU, BUT I'VE GOT
WORK TO DO.



COME ON,
JUST ONE
DRINK.



WHAT KIND
OF WORK CAN'T
WAIT FOR A FEW
MINUTES?

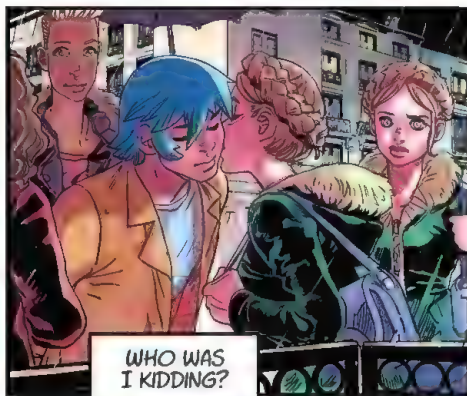


OKAY, FINE.
BUT I CAN'T STAY
OUT LONG.



GREAT!

I'M JUNE,
BY THE WAY.



WHO WAS
I KIDDING?



I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG
WE SPENT IN THE BAR.

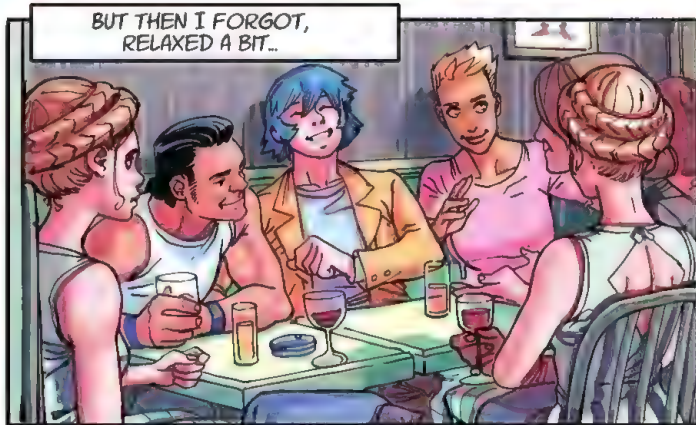
BUT I DO KNOW THE
SUBWAY WAS CLOSED
WHEN WE LEFT.



AT FIRST, I SAID YES IN
CASE IT COULD HELP
MY INVESTIGATION.



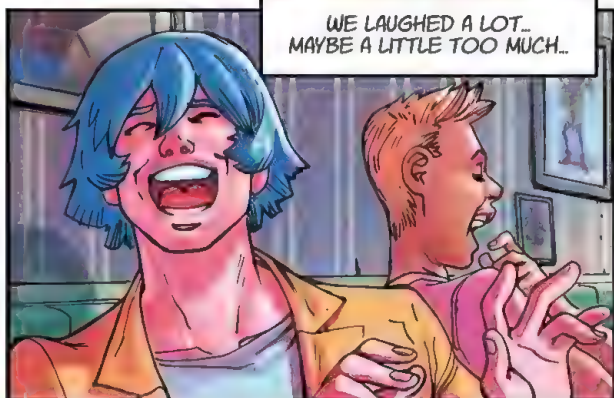
I WAS, AND STILL AM, CONVINCED
THE THIEF WAS RIGHT THERE
IN THE ROOM.



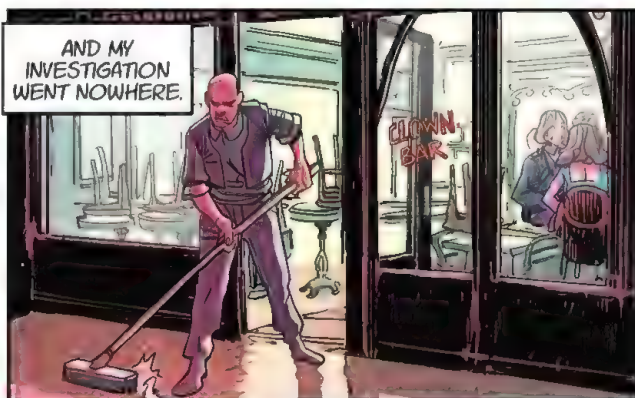
BUT THEN I FORGOT,
RELAXED A BIT...



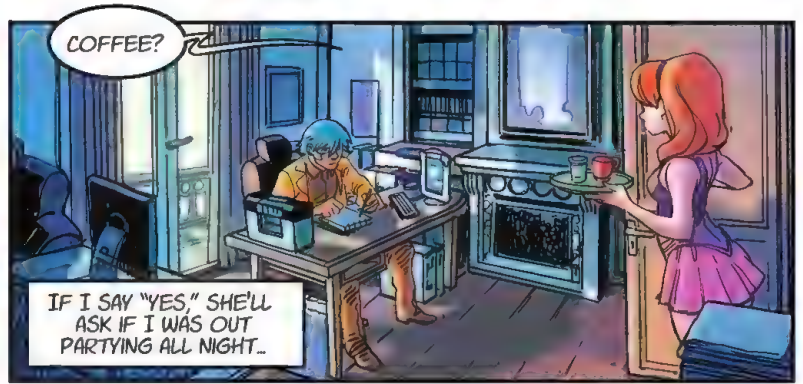
IT HAD BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I HUNG OUT
WITH NEW PEOPLE.



WE LAUGHED A LOT...
MAYBE A LITTLE TOO MUCH...



AND MY
INVESTIGATION
WENT NOWHERE.

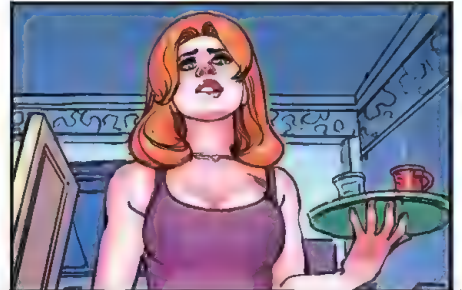


IF I SAY "YES," SHE'LL ASK IF I WAS OUT PARTYING ALL NIGHT...

IF I SAY "NO," SHE'LL TELL ME IT'LL DO ME GOOD, AND THAT I LOOK LIKE I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP.



NO, THANKS. I STAYED UP TOO LATE WORKING ON MY BOOK.



IN BOTH CASES, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN ASKING OUT OF JEALOUSY. I CAN HEAR HER THINKING HOW RELIEVED SHE IS THAT I DIDN'T MEET SOMEBODY LAST NIGHT...



WAIT, WHAT'S SHE DOING?

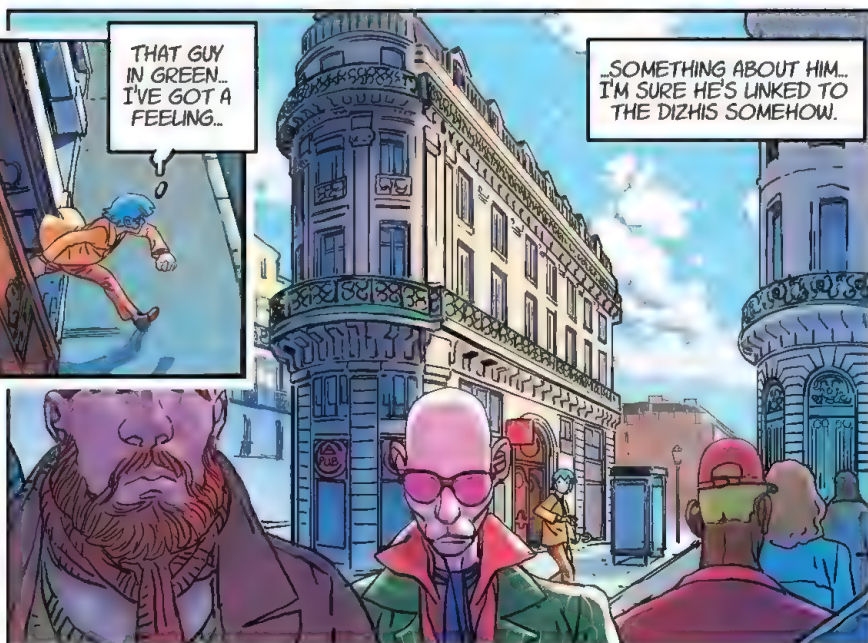
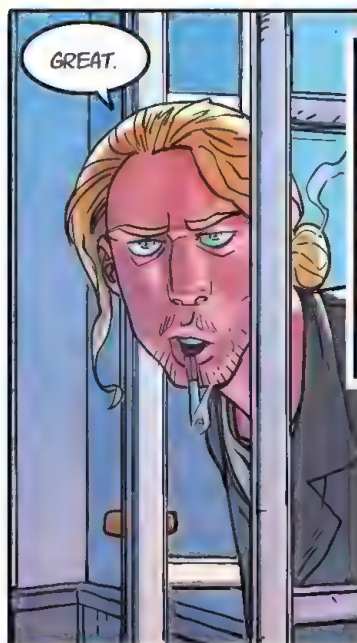
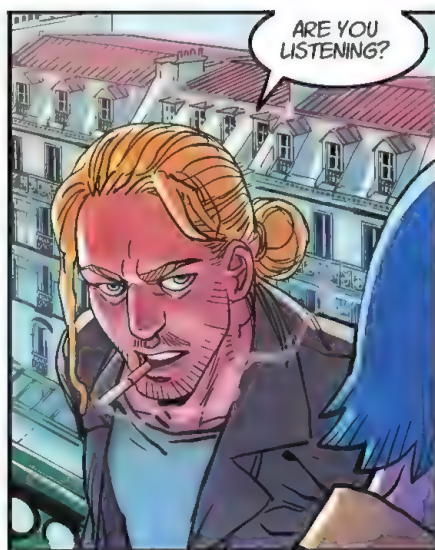
"OKAY, HERE I GO..."



YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT SMELLS GOOD, I WILL HAVE A CUP!



ANGE, YOU GOT A SEC?



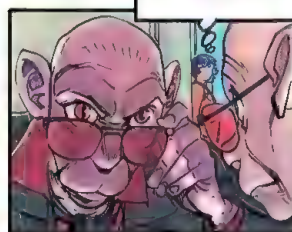


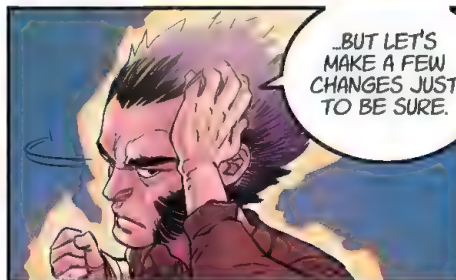
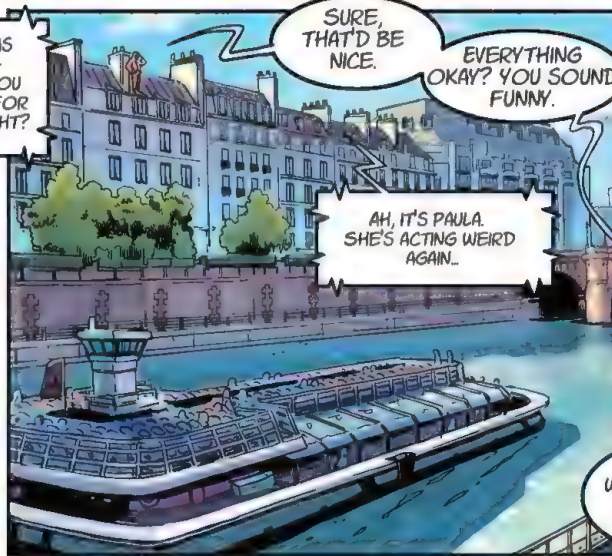
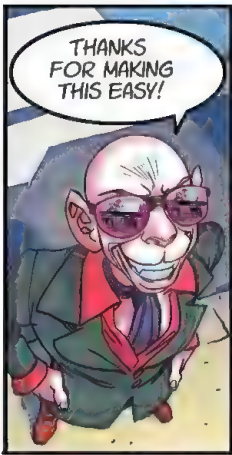
DAMN, HE'S
GONNA SEE
ME...

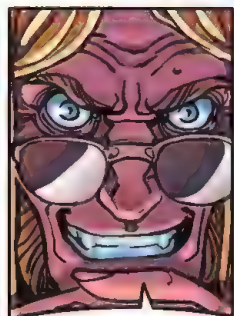
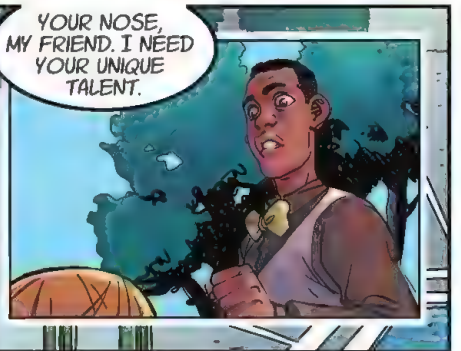
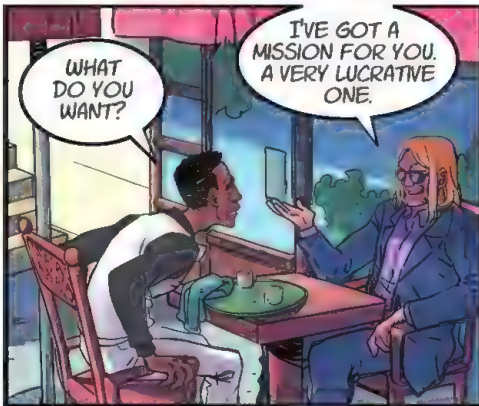
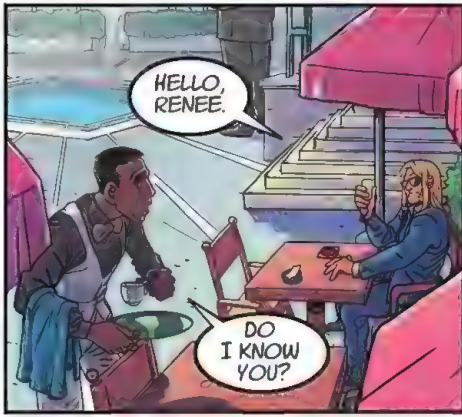


HEY!

TIME
TO GO!



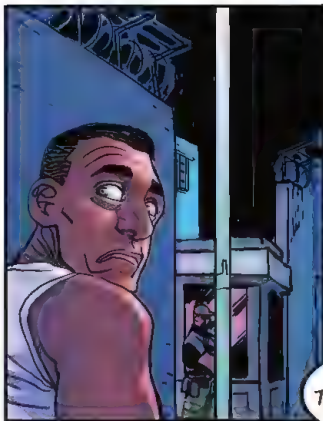




NO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, DOG.



TWO HOURS
LATER



I'M HERE
TO SEE THE
BOSS.



WHAT IS
IT?

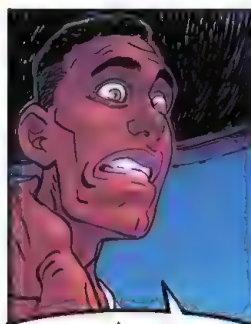
IT'S
ABOUT THE
DIZHI.

YOU FOUND
ONE?

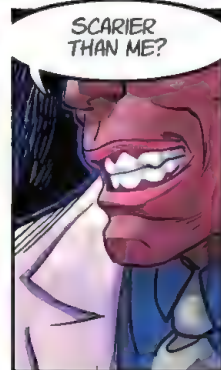


NOT YET, BUT I...
I MET A GUY WHO
WANTS ME TO
FIND ONE FOR HIM.

WHAT? HOW'D HE KNOW YOU
WERE THE DOG?

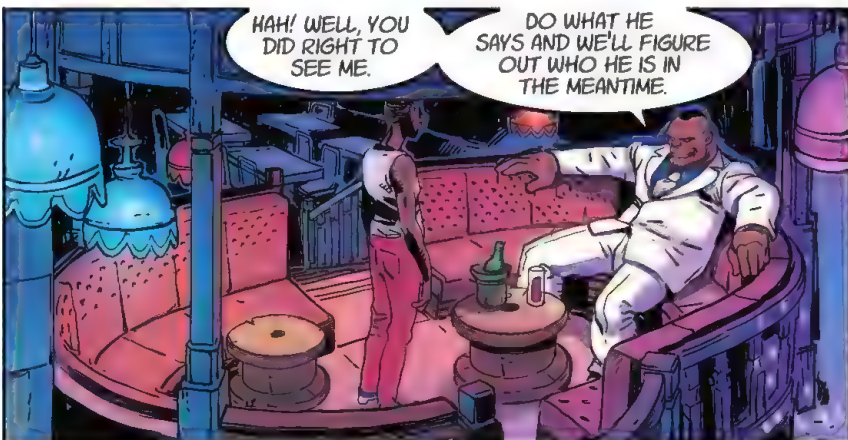
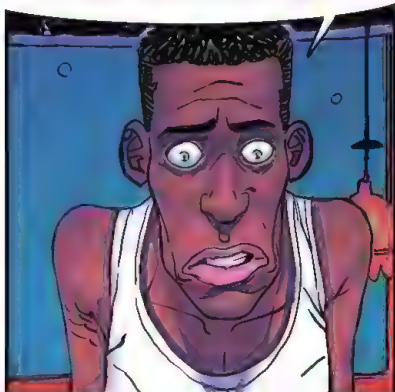


I DON'T KNOW,
BUT HE'S A SCARY DUDE.



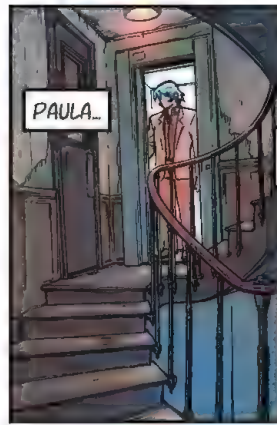
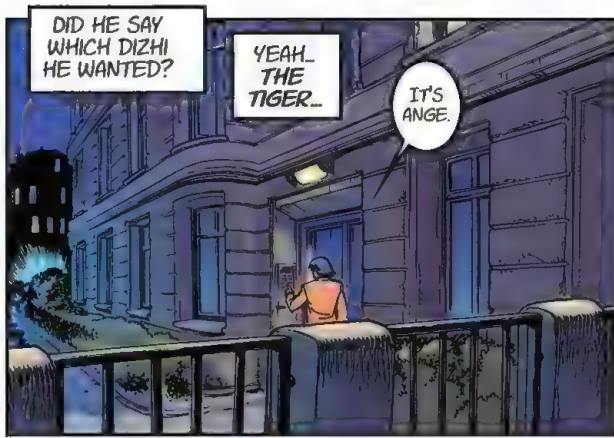
SCARIER
THAN ME?

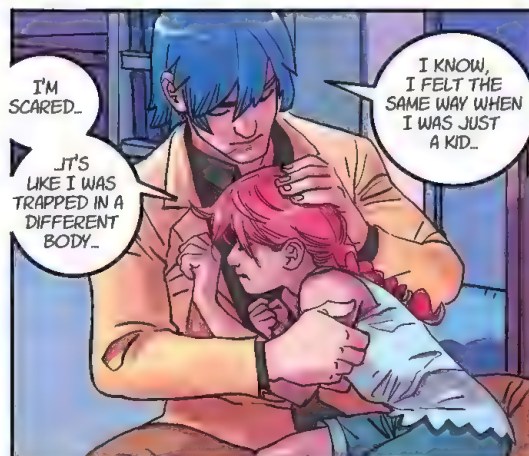
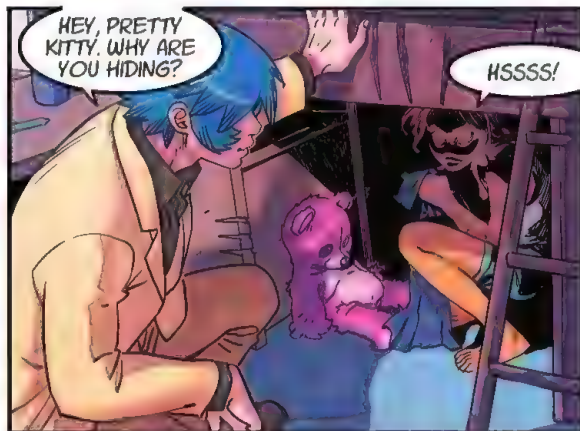
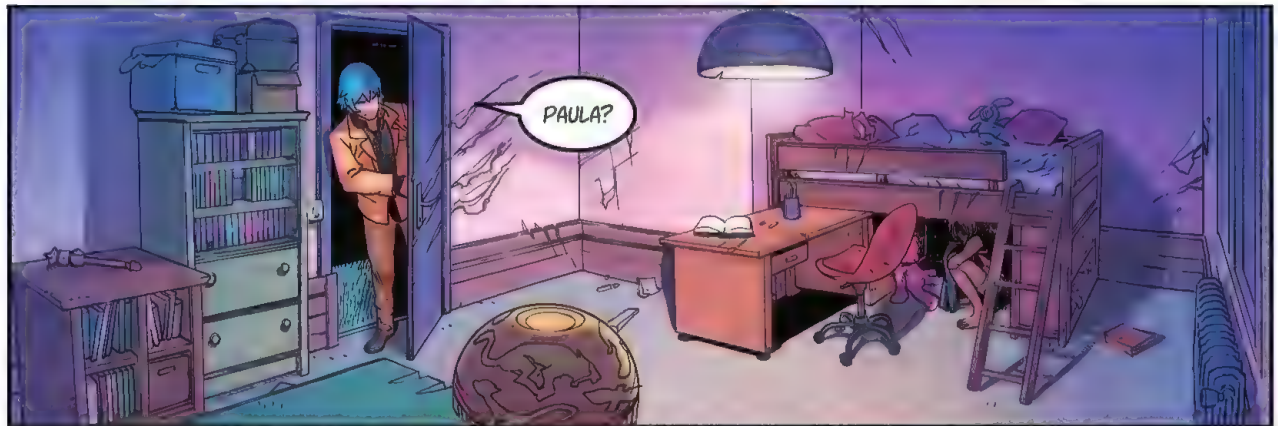
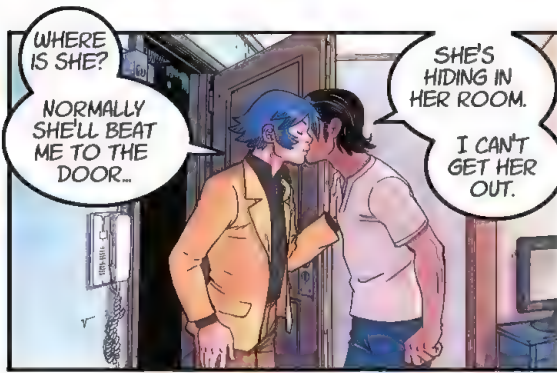
NO OFFENSE, SIR, BUT HE FROZE MY
BLOOD LIKE NOBODY ELSE.



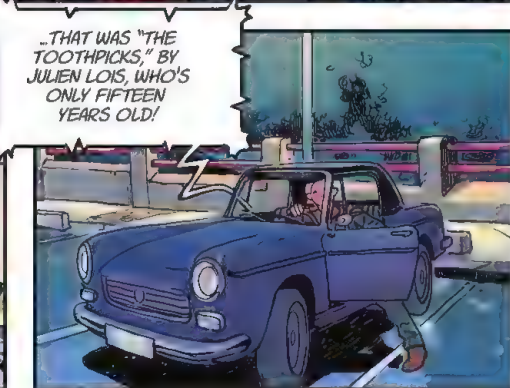
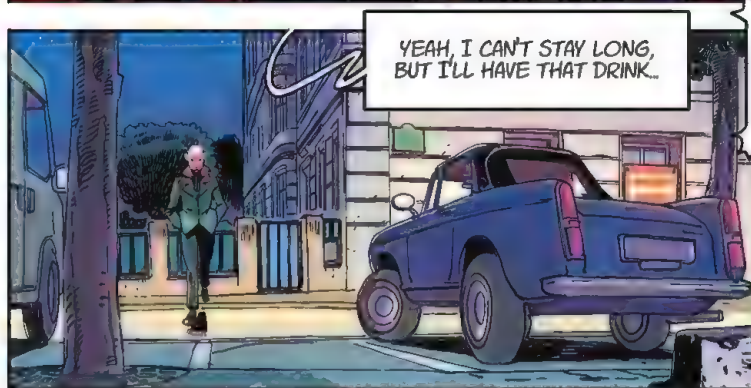
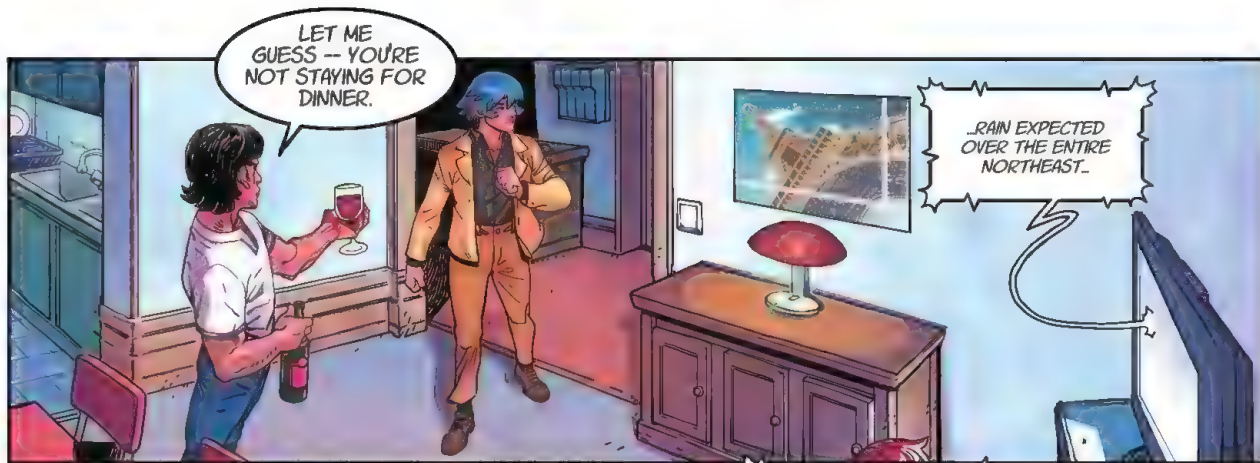
HAH! WELL, YOU
DID RIGHT TO
SEE ME.

DO WHAT HE
SAYS AND WE'LL FIGURE
OUT WHO HE IS IN
THE MEANTIME.





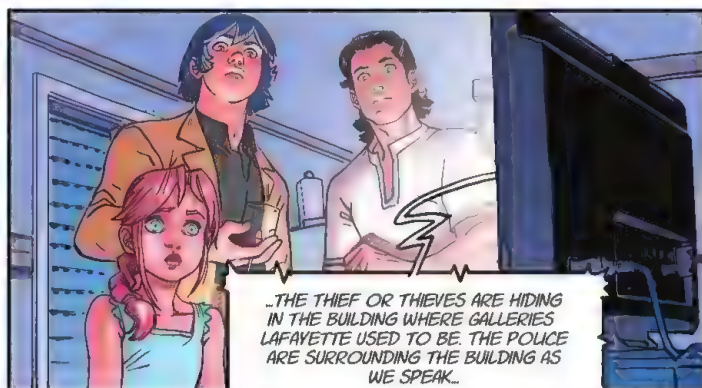
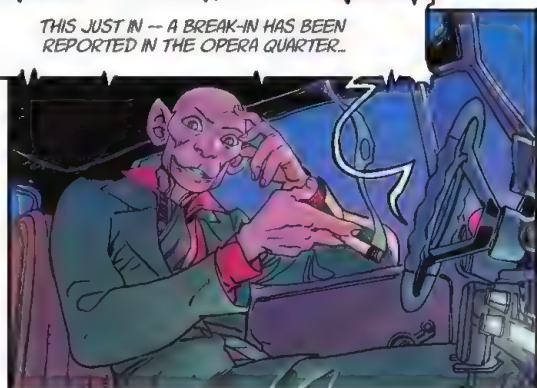


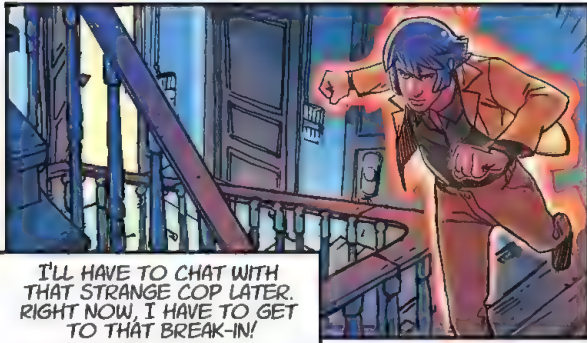


I'M STARTING TO THINK MAYBE SHE SHOULD SEE A THERAPIST...



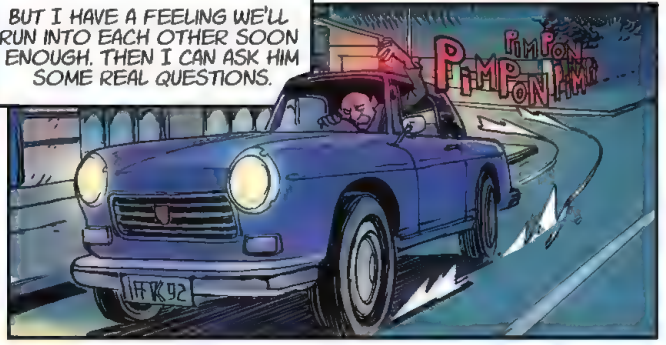
THIS JUST IN -- A BREAK-IN HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE OPERA QUARTER...





I'LL HAVE TO CHAT WITH THAT STRANGE COP LATER. RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO GET TO THAT BREAK-IN!

BUT I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL RUN INTO EACH OTHER SOON ENOUGH. THEN I CAN ASK HIM SOME REAL QUESTIONS.



LIKE HOW HE WAS ABLE TO FOLLOW ME EVEN AFTER I CHANGED MY APPEARANCE.

OR HOW HE KNOWS MY NAME.



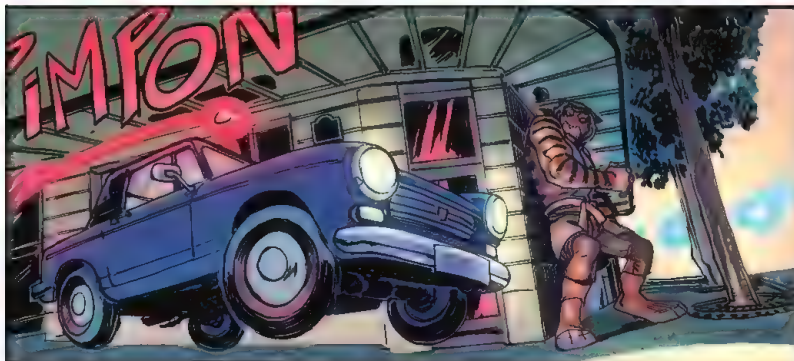
OR MOST OF ALL, HOW HE KNEW PAULA HAD A DIZHI INSIDE HER!

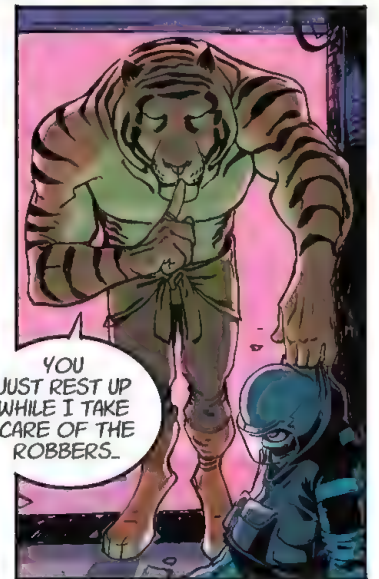
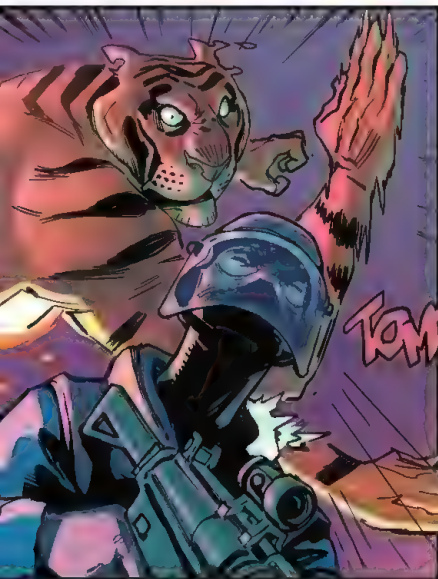
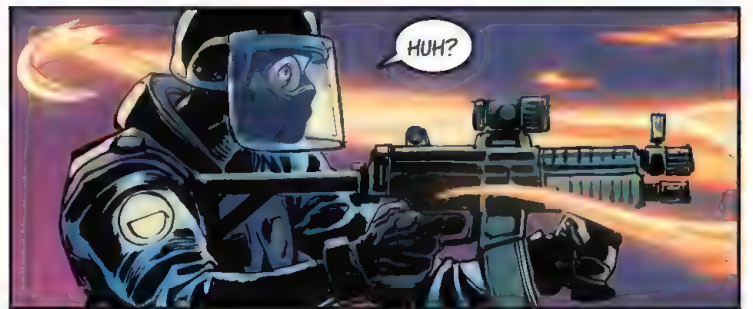
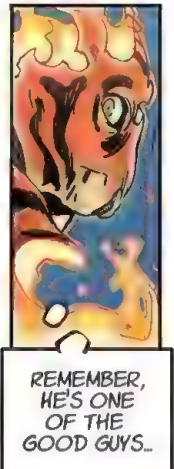
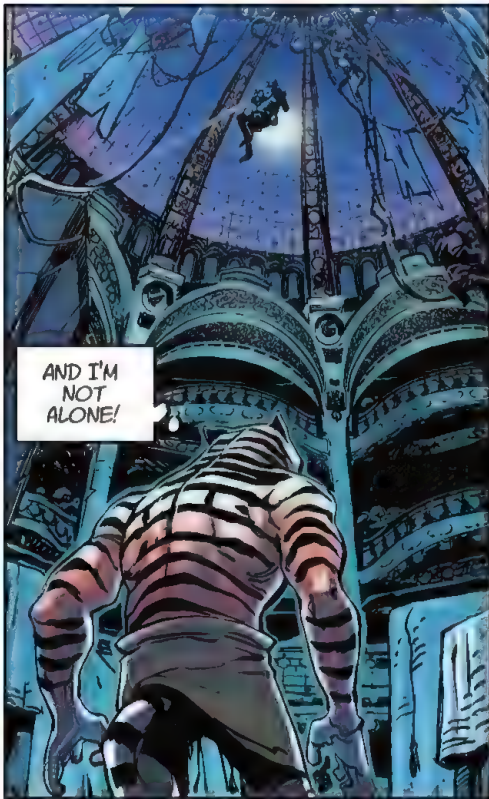
BUT RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO CATCH THOSE ROBBERS BEFORE THE COPS DO!

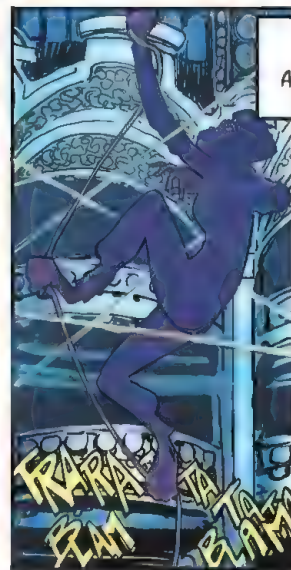
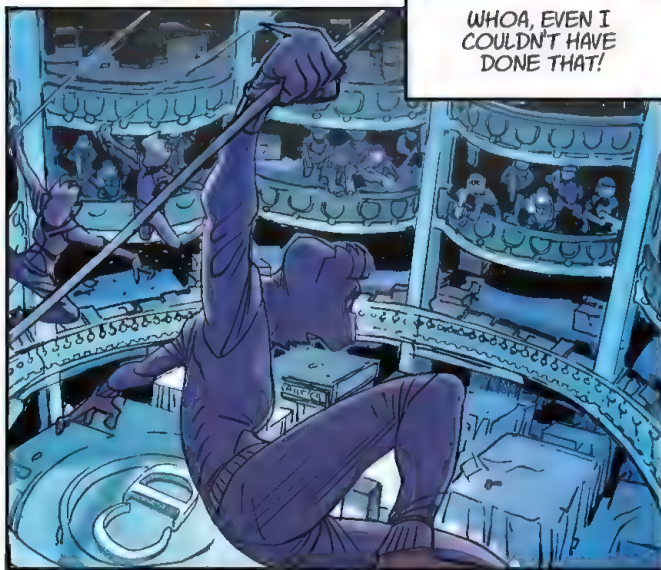
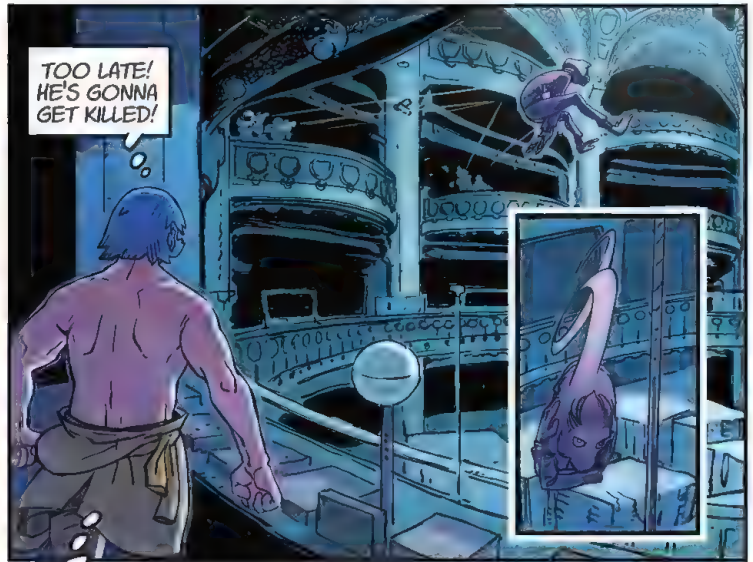
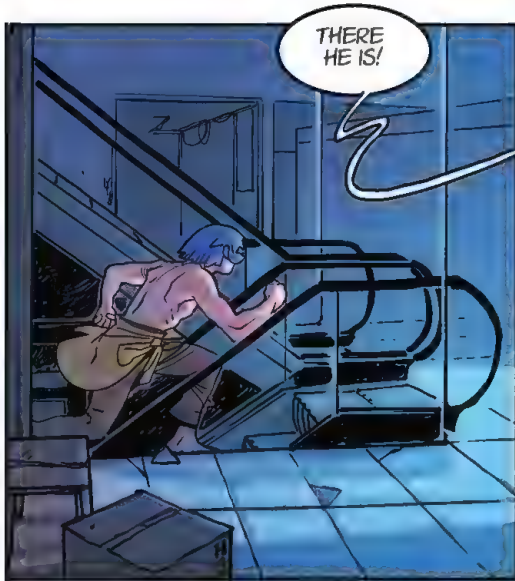


DON'T ASK ME WHY, BUT SOMETHING INSIDE ME IS TELLING ME I HAVE TO...

...AND DIZHI ARE RARELY WRONG.









THANKS

HAVE A GOOD ONE.



HEY, ANGE!

MISS US ALREADY?



YEAH, EXACTLY!

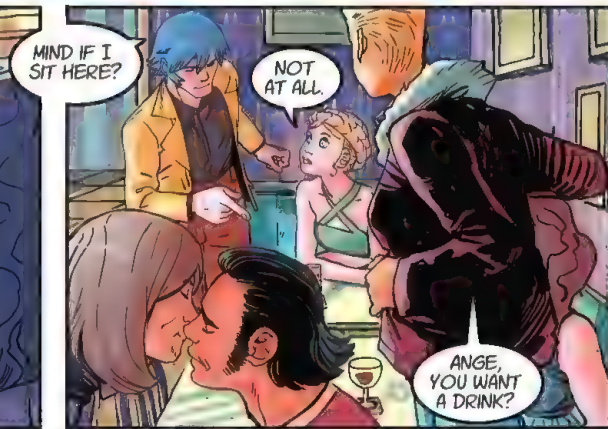
WERE YOU WITH THE OTHERS?



NO, WE HAD... A THING TO DO...



SO ARE THEY REALLY IN LOVE, OR IS IT JUST A COVER FOR THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES..?



MIND IF I SIT HERE?

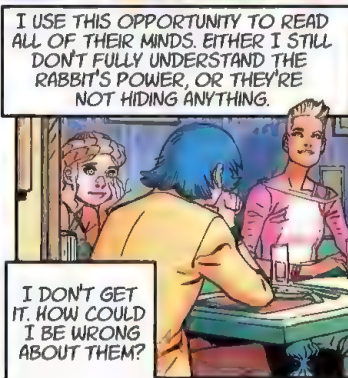
NOT AT ALL.

ANGE, YOU WANT A DRINK?



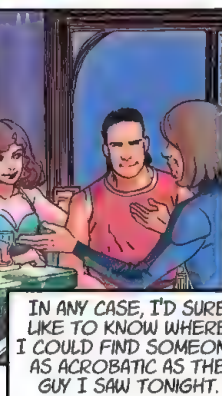
ACTUALLY, I THINK I'LL GET A COUPLE OF SANDWICHES. I'M HUNGRY AS A TIGER!

GOT IT.

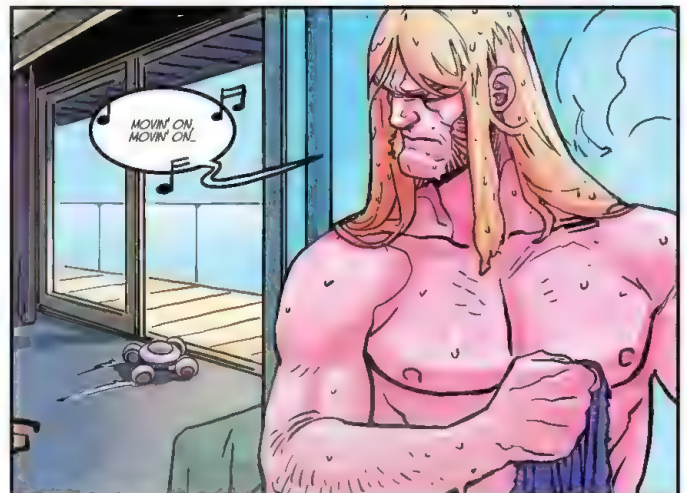
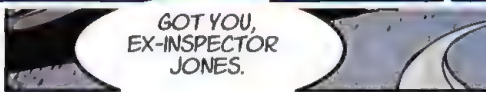
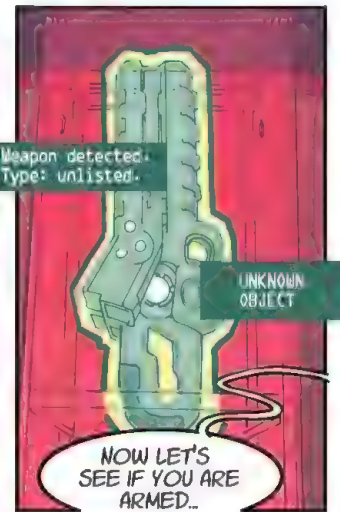
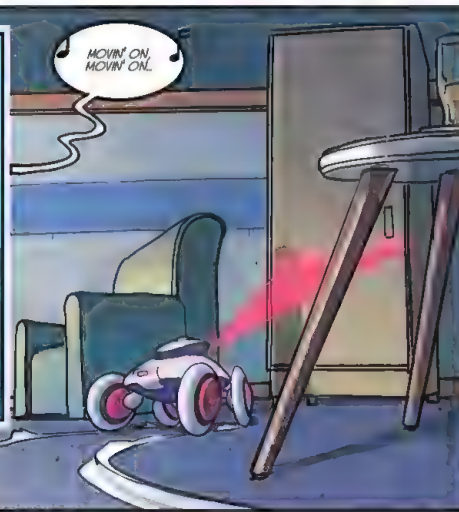
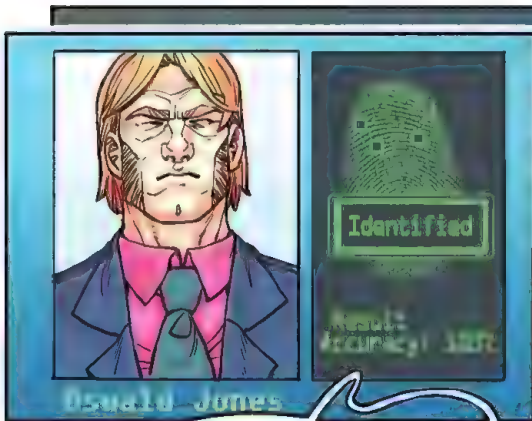
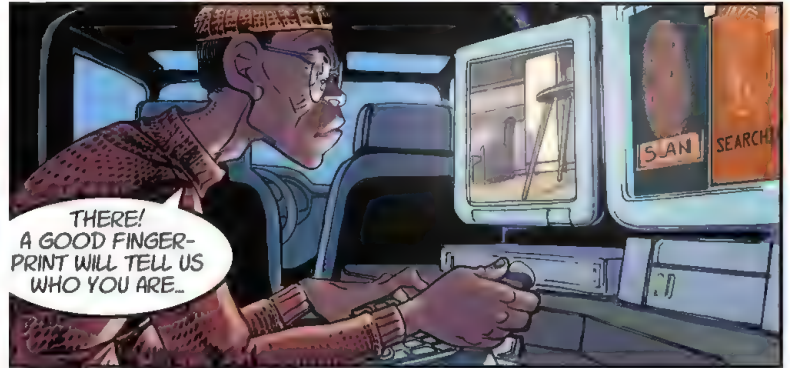
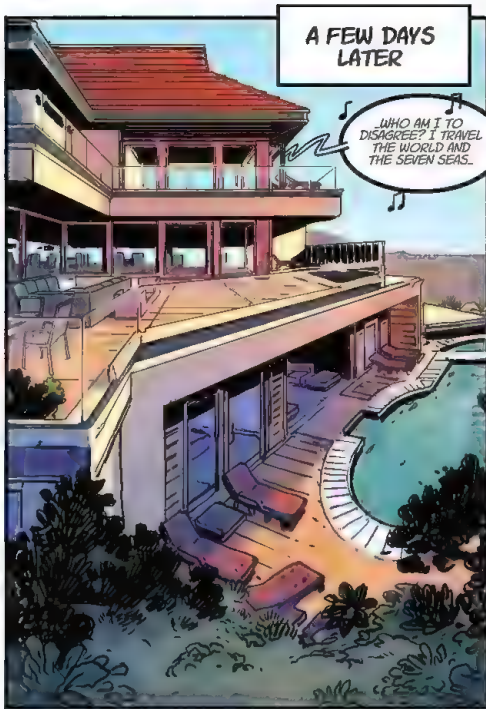


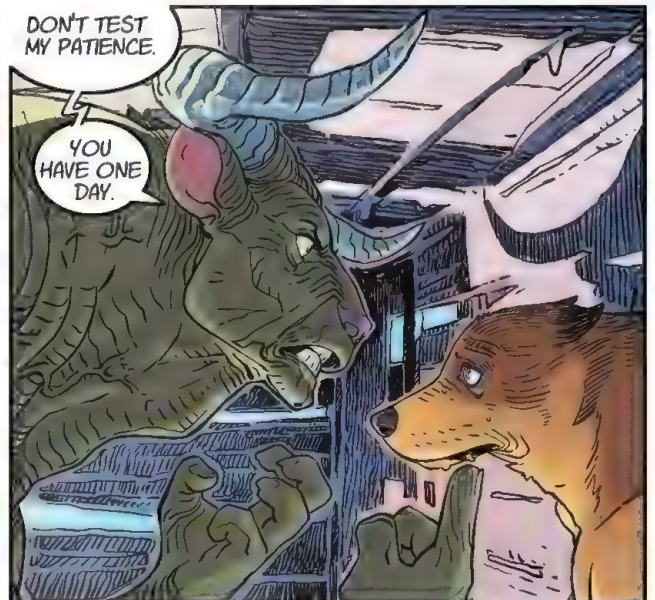
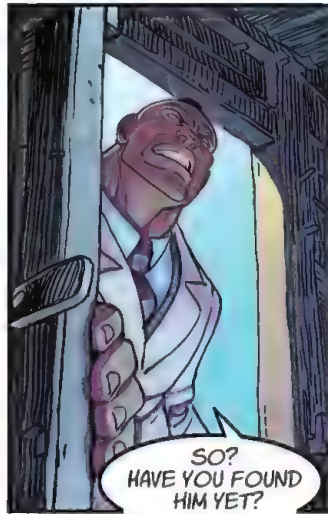
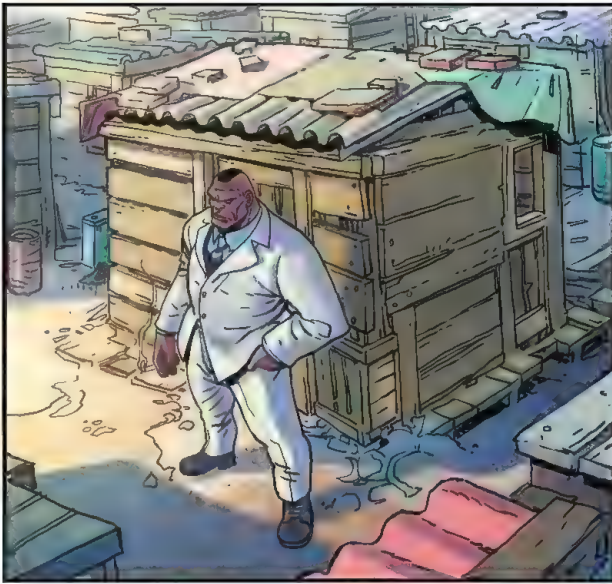
I USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO READ ALL OF THEIR MINDS. EITHER I STILL DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RABBIT'S POWER, OR THEY'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING.

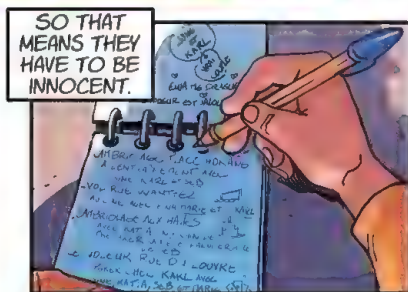
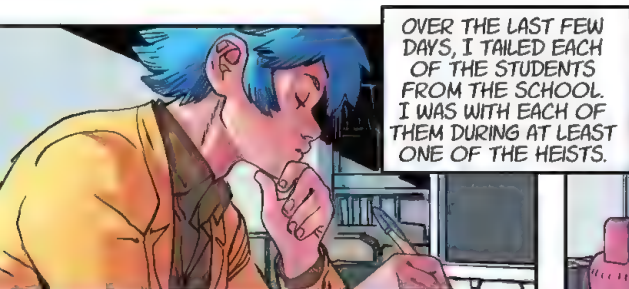
I DON'T GET IT. HOW COULD I BE WRONG ABOUT THEM?



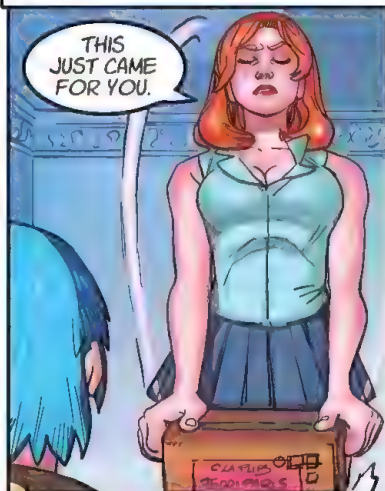
IN ANY CASE, I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW WHERE I COULD FIND SOMEONE AS ACROBATIC AS THE GUY I SAW TONIGHT.







I BOUGHT A POLICE RADIO SCANNER SO I CAN MONITOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

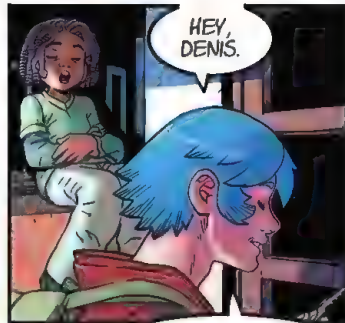


THE NEXT TIME THE THIEF TAKES ACTION, I'LL KNOW ABOUT IT IMMEDIATELY.



LET'S HOPE MY POWERS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.





HEY,
DENIS.

LET ME GUESS --
HOME ALONE AND
YOU FORGOT YOUR
KEYS?

NOPE,
I WAS WAITING
FOR YOU.



I KNOW YOUR REAL
NAME ISN'T RILEY.

OH
YEAH?

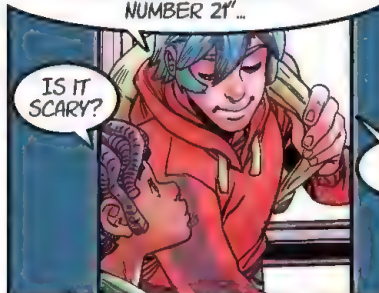
YEAH! I SAW THE ACTOR'S NAME ON
THE MOVIE POSTER FOR "CONTROL"
THAT YOU THREW AWAY.



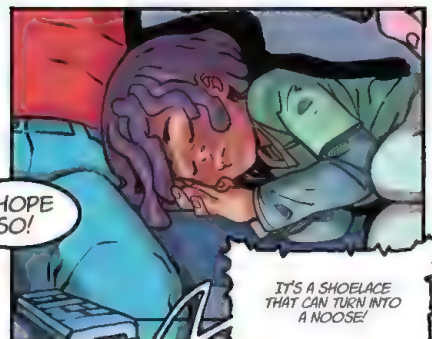
SHOOT,
YOU WON'T RAT
ME OUT, WILL
YOU?

NOT IF WE WATCH ANOTHER MOVIE..

WELL, JUST MY LUCK -- I RENTED
"THE MURDERER LIVES AT
NUMBER 21"...



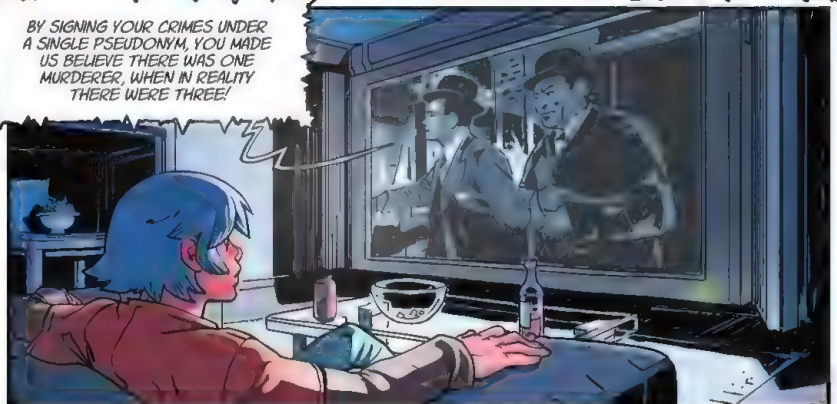
IS IT
SCARY?



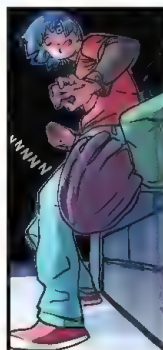
I HOPE
SO!

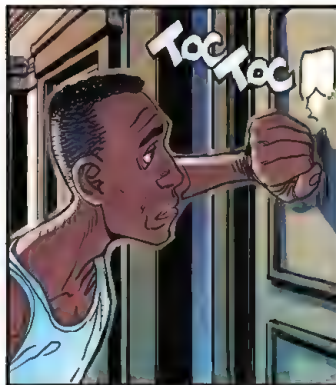
IT'S A SHOELACE
THAT CAN TURN INTO
A NOOSE!

BY SIGNING YOUR CRIMES UNDER
A SINGLE PSEUDONYM, YOU MADE
US BELIEVE THERE WAS ONE
MURDERER, WHEN IN REALITY
THERE WERE THREE!



OH, MAN.
I GET IT NOW!
WE WERE NEVER
ALL TOGETHER!
THERE'S MORE
THAN ONE
THIEF!

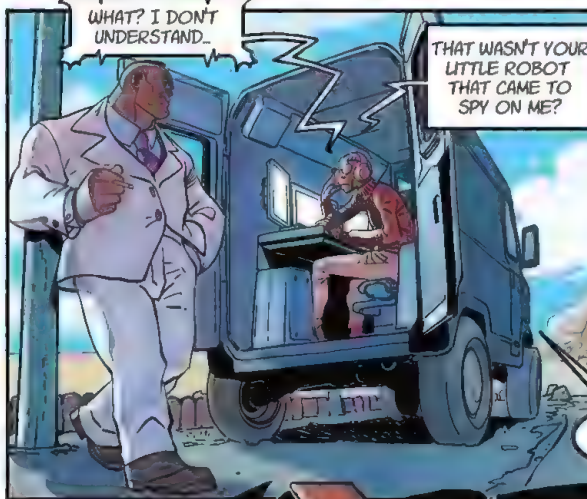




WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO COME HERE...

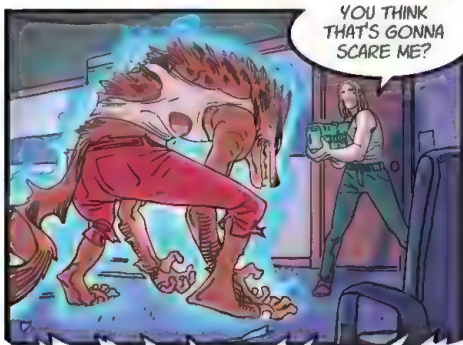


WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

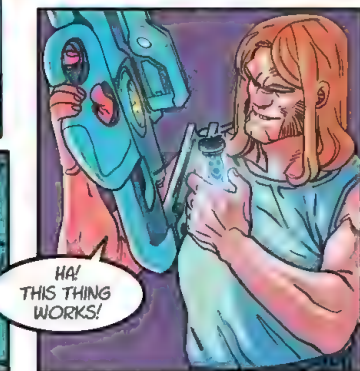
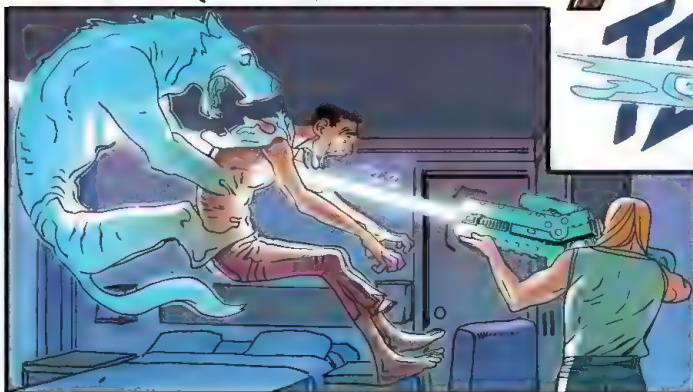


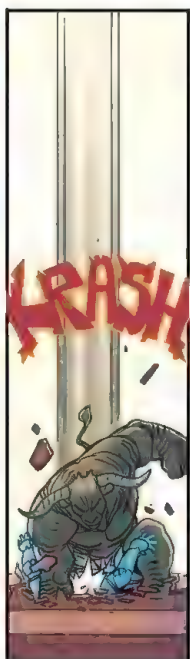
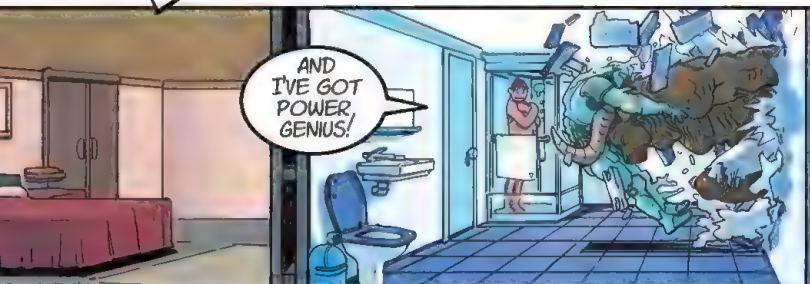
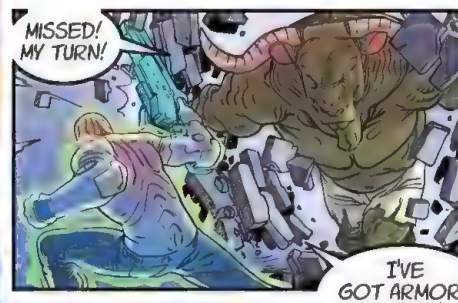
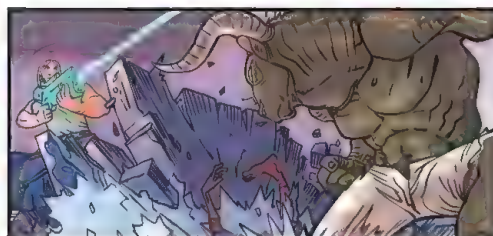
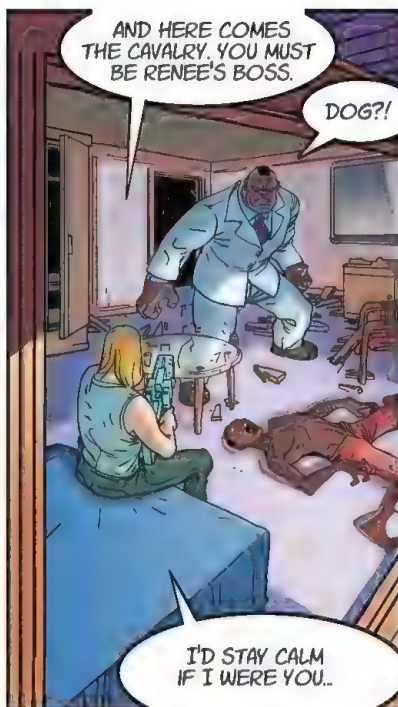
HOPE THAT LITTLE MUTT CAN HOLD OUT LONG ENOUGH...

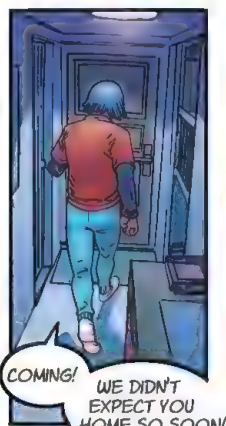
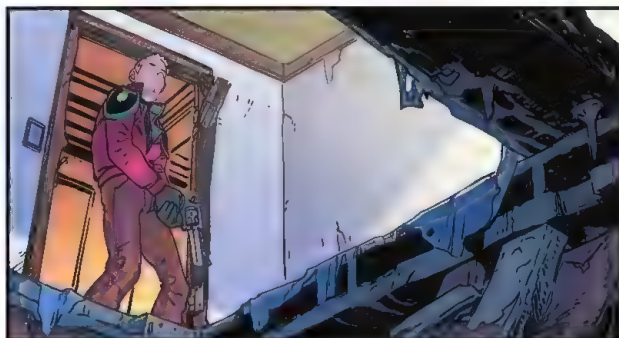
BOSS, WE GOT A PROBLEM.



GRRRRRRRRRR



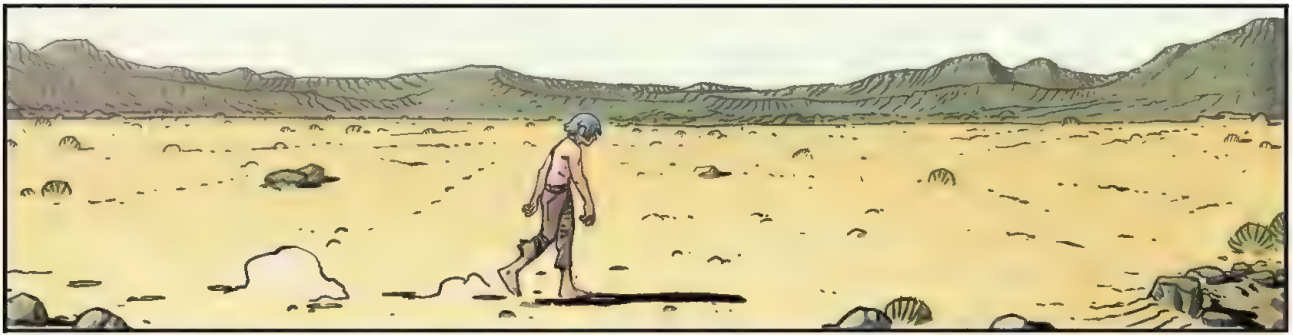






PART SIX: THE FORGOTTEN

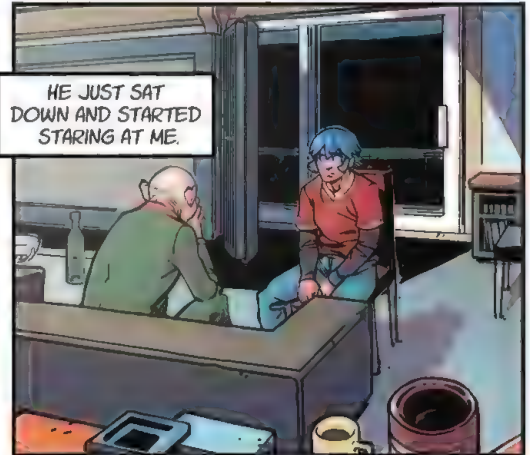




IT'S BEEN THIRTY MINUTES SINCE I LET THIS GUY INTO MY APARTMENT.



THIRTY MINUTES AND HE HASN'T SAID A WORD.



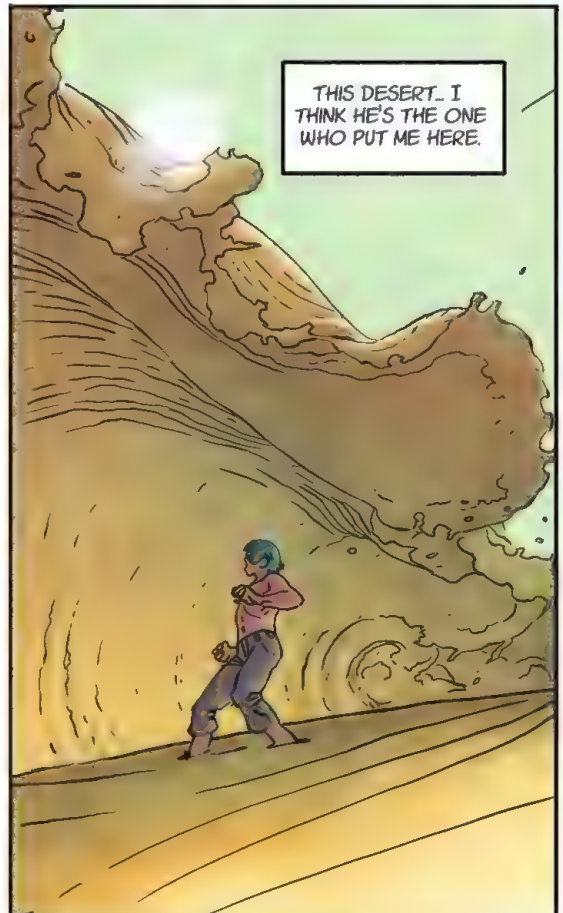
HE JUST SAT DOWN AND STARTED STARING AT ME.



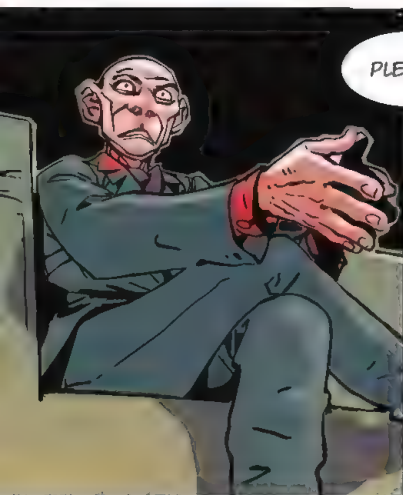
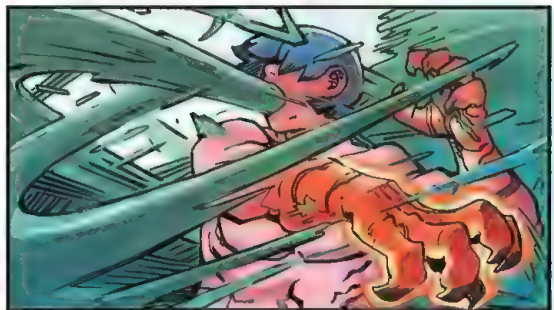
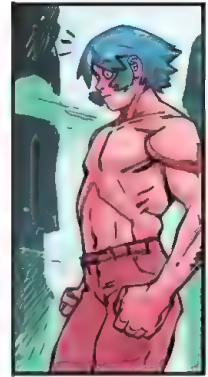
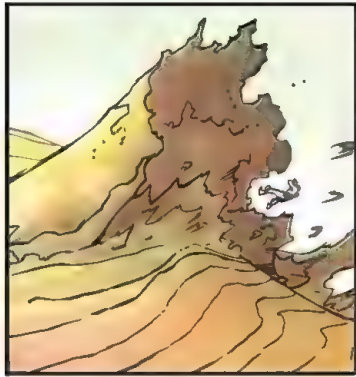
EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN PARALYZED. IT'S LIKE I WAS SENT INSIDE MYSELF, LOST IN A VAST DESERT.



I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I SAID TO DENIS'S MOM WHEN SHE CAME TO PICK HIM UP.



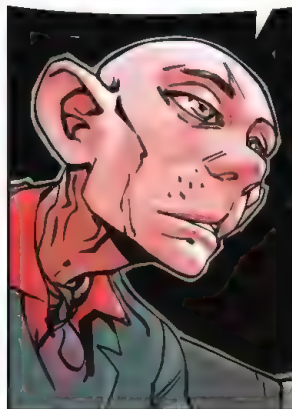
THIS DESERT... I THINK HE'S THE ONE WHO PUT ME HERE.



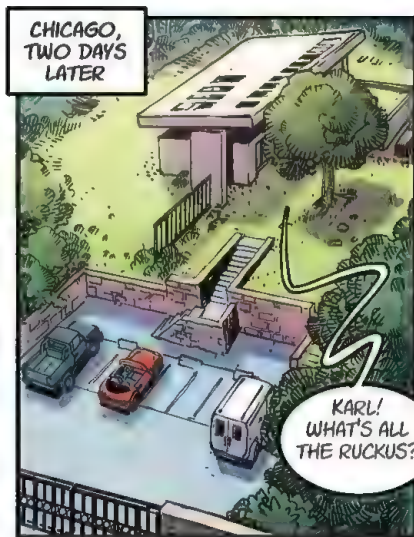
PLEASE...



I'M SORRY TO USE SUCH
DRASTIC MEASURES, ANGEL.
BUT I WANTED TO BE SURE
I HAD YOUR ATTENTION...



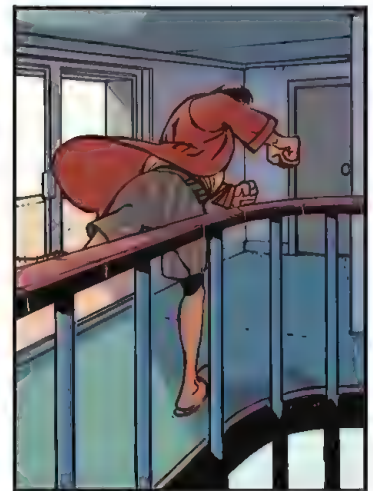
...AND I
WANTED TO AVOID ANY
INTERRUPTION YOUR ANGER
MAY CAUSE.

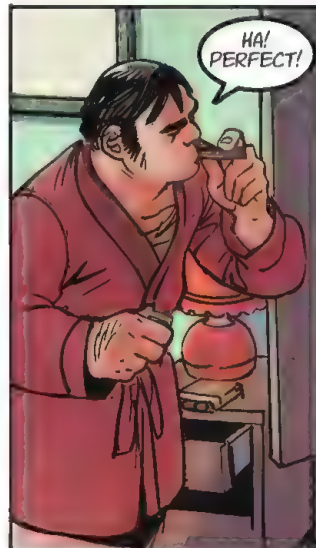
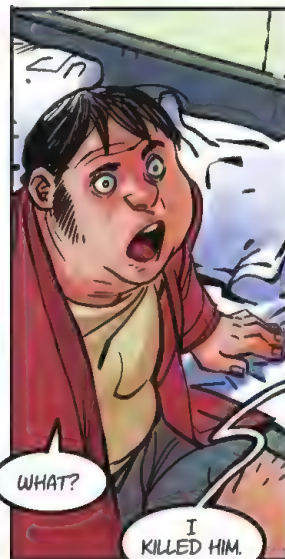


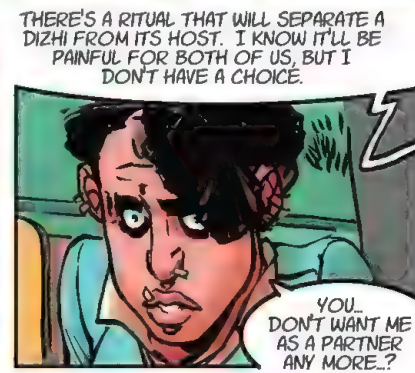
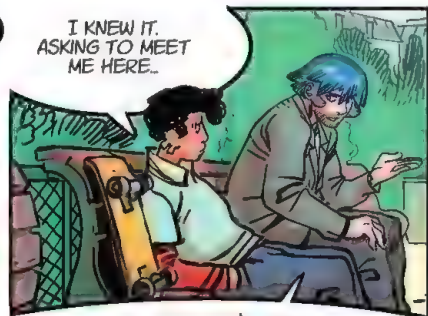
KARL!
WHAT'S ALL
THE RUCKUS?

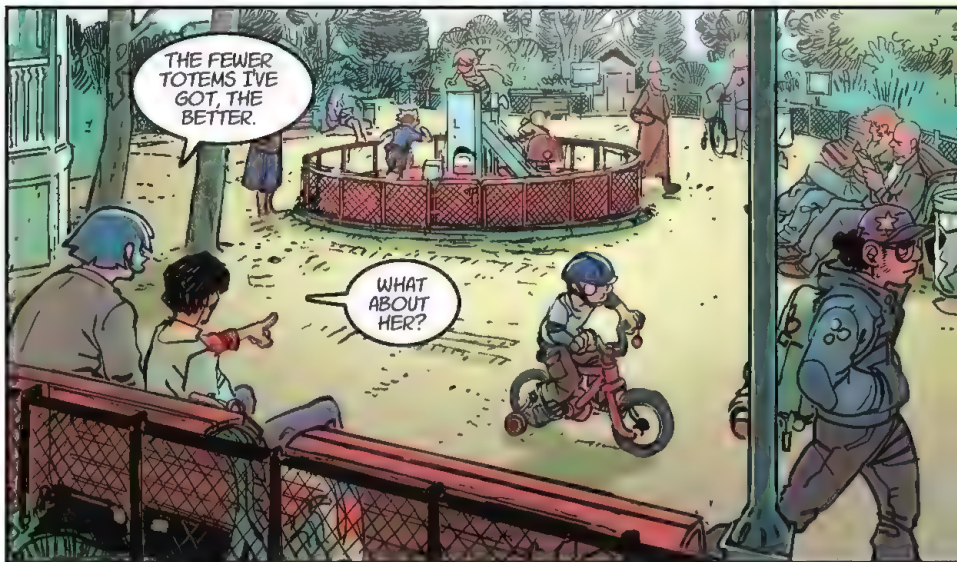


DAMN IT --

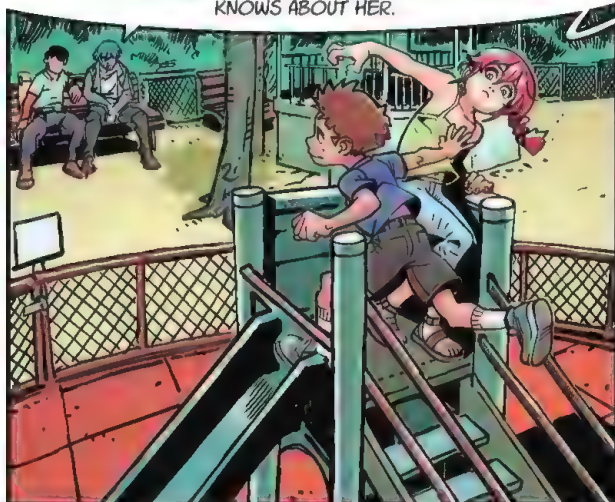




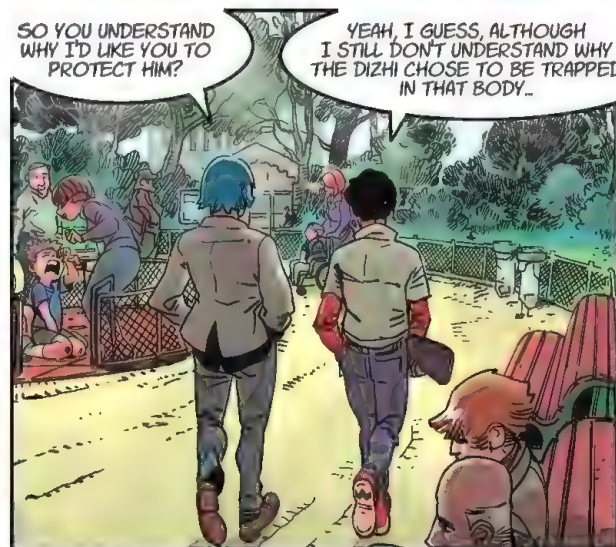




IT'S DIFFERENT FOR PAULA. THE TIGER WAS MY FIRST TOTEM. I CAN'T SEPARATE FROM IT. PLUS, THIS GUY ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT HER.



I DON'T THINK SO, BUT I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING. WE WON'T BE ANY WEAKER IF WE TAKE HIM FROM ALL SIDES WITH OUR DIFFERENT TOTEMS.

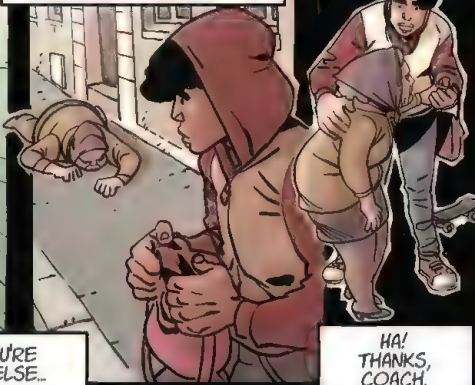


WELL, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE RABBIT WOULD CHOOSE SOME STREET THIEF?



HA, Y'KNOW, I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE...

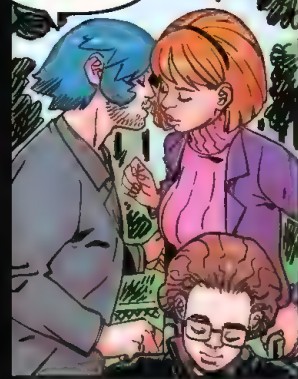
HEY, DESPITE YOUR ORIGINS, YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, AADI. THE RABBIT PICKED YOU.



HA! THANKS, COACH.

HEY, LUCIE.

HI, ANGE.



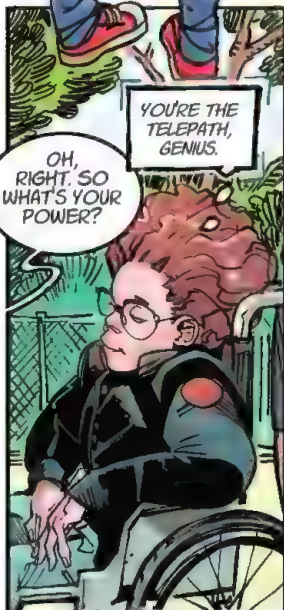
PIERRE, THIS IS AADI. HE'S THE GUY I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT. HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU WHILE I'M GONE.

HEY, PIERRE.



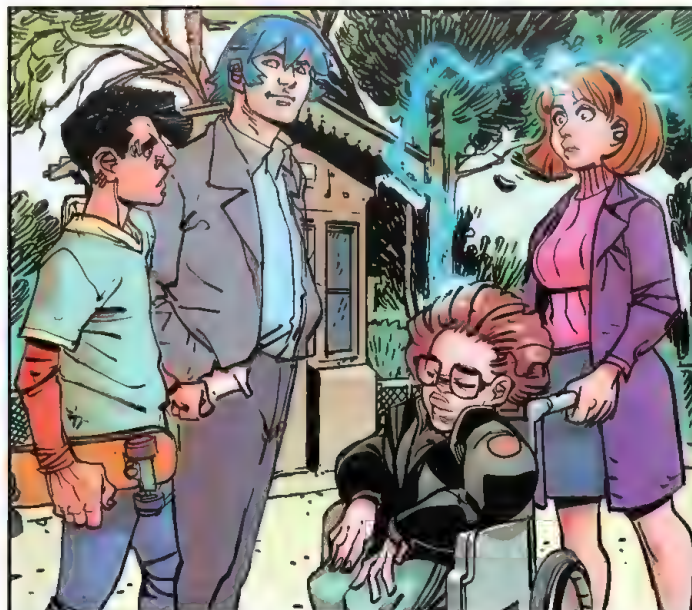
HELLO, AADI. SO DO YOU JUST EAT A LOT OF CARROTS, OR DO YOU HAVE OTHER POWERS, TOO?

WHOA! SO COOL! HOW --?

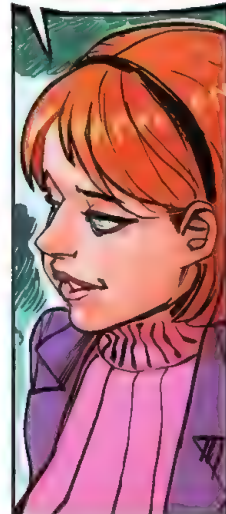


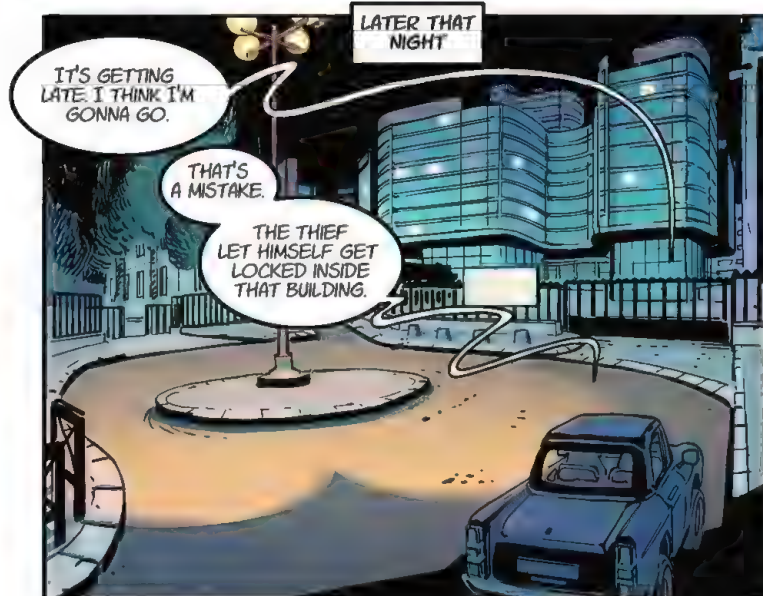
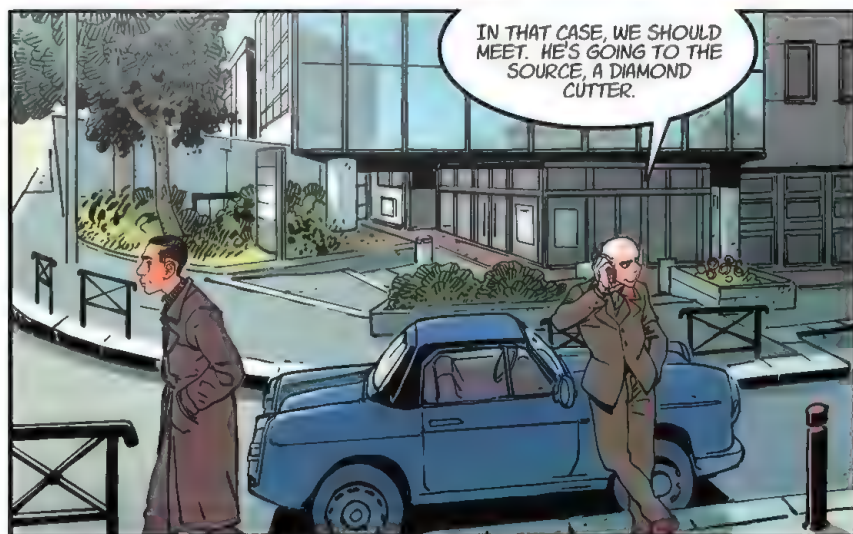
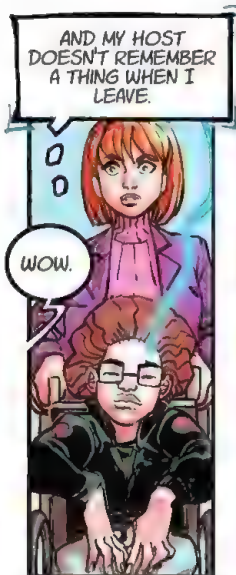
YOU'RE THE TELEPATH, GENIUS.


OH, RIGHT. SO WHAT'S YOUR POWER?



MY SICKNESS CHANGED MY POWER SLIGHTLY. SO INSTEAD OF TELEPORTING, I CAN SWAP BODIES.







HOW COULD I NOT THINK ABOUT IT?

THE GUY SITTING NEXT TO ME MIGHT BE AN ENEMY -- MAYBE THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE OF THEM ALL.

BUT HE CAME TO ME AS A FRIEND.

AND THEN HE TOLD ME THAT THE FAMOUS TWELVE DIZHI WHO DISAPPEARED AREN'T DEAD, THEY'RE JUST IN HIDING.

HE KNOWS THEM. HE REPRESENTS THEM. HE WAS ONE OF THEM. HE WAS THE CAT.

AN ANCIENT RITUAL WAS USED TO STRIP THE TOTEM FROM HIM.

THE PROCESS LEFT HIM WITH CERTAIN SIDE-EFFECTS, OR "POWERS," DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT THEM.

EVER SINCE THEN, HE HAS HAD URGES -- HE NEEDS ME TO GIVE HIM A DIZHI.

HE WANTS US TO UNDERGO THE SAME RITUAL.

I HAVEN'T MENTIONED THE HORSE TO HIM SINCE IT HASN'T FOUND A PARTNER FOR ME YET.

BUT I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT HIM TO BE THAT PARTNER.



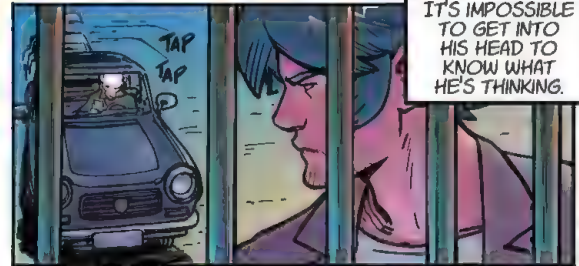
YOU KNOW WHAT MAKES ME REALLY NERVOUS, THOUGH?

I'M GONNA GET SOME AIR.



I CAN'T USE THE RABBIT'S POWER ON HIM.

DON'T GO TOO FAR.



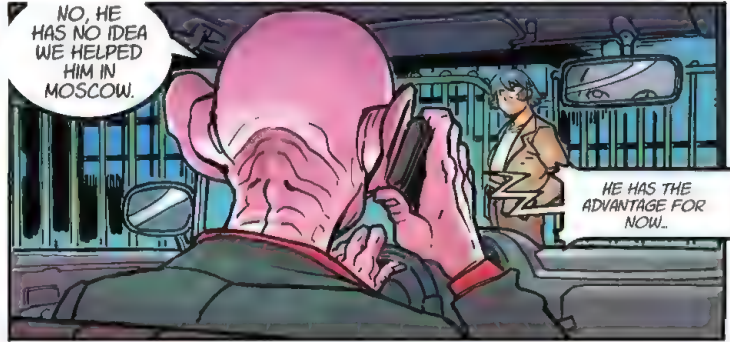
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET INTO HIS HEAD TO KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING.



IT'S ME.

IT'S GOING TO BE HARDER THAN I THOUGHT. HE'S CAUTIOUS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE CAN SEND ME OFF INTO SOME SORT OF MENTAL PRISON.



NO, HE HAS NO IDEA WE HELPED HIM IN MOSCOW.

HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE FOR NOW.



YET, IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH...

I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR HIM TO FIND OUT.



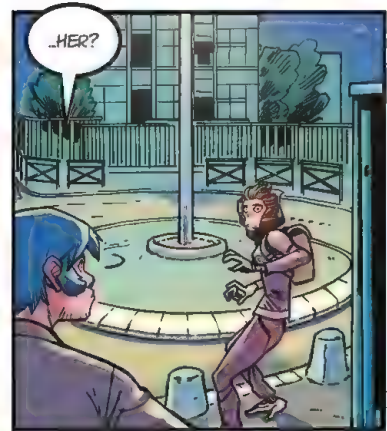
IF HE IS A FRIEND...

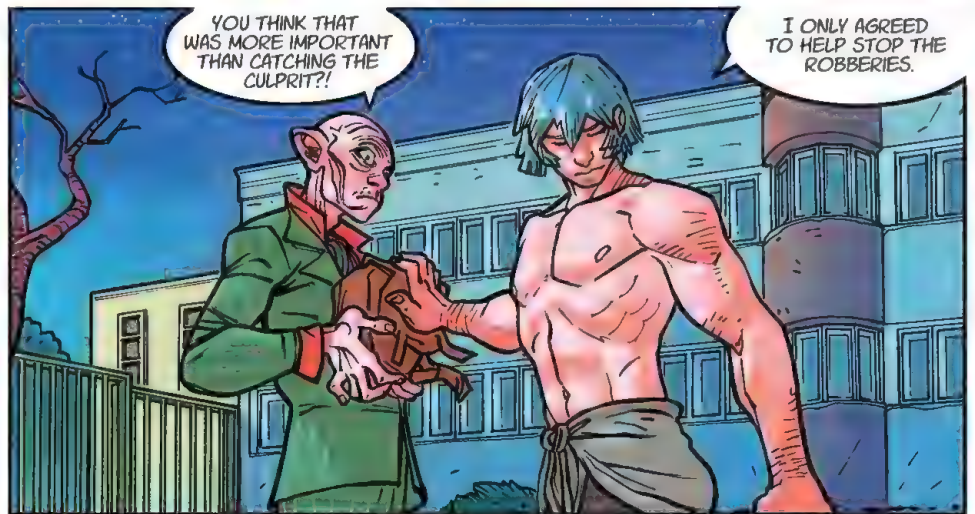
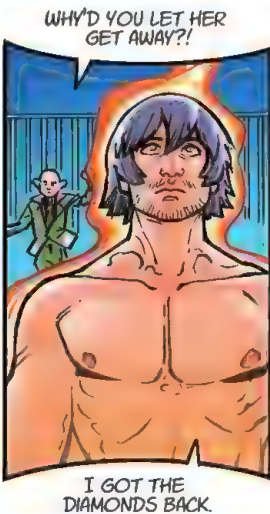
THE GIRL? I THINK HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO STILL DOESN'T GET IT.

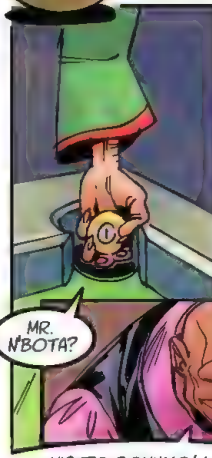
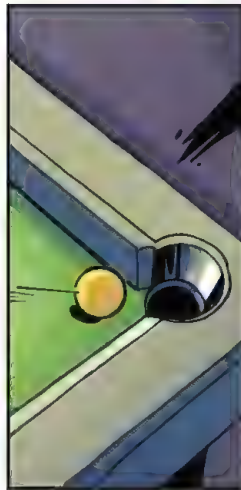
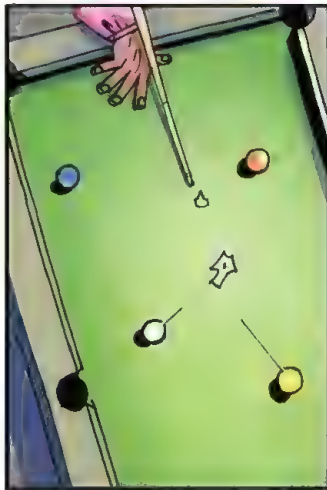


GOOD EVENING.

EVENING.







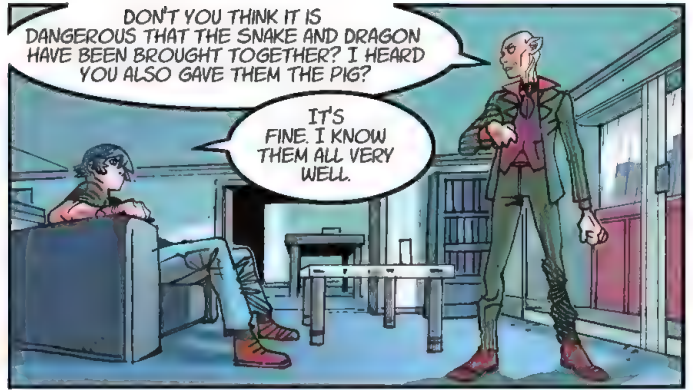
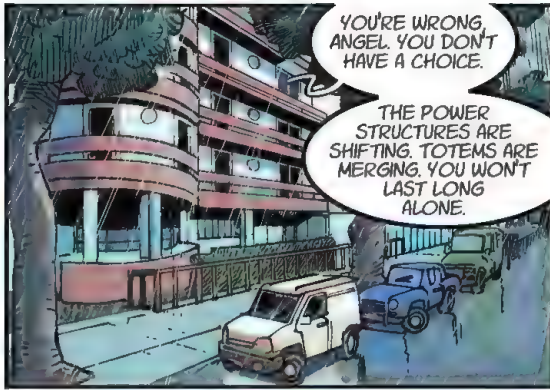
MISTER SOKUMO! WHAT A SURPRISE. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!



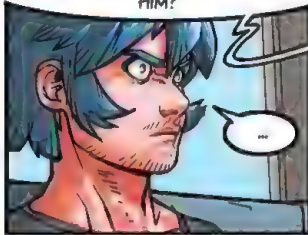
PLAYING DEAD WAS A WISE CHOICE, BUT YOU SHOULD DO IT A LITTLE BETTER.







THE GUY STEALS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AND YOU TRUST HIM?



YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? THEY DIDN'T ATTACK YOU BECAUSE THEIR ALLIANCE WAS TOO NEW. THEY STILL WEREN'T ABLE TO BRING THEIR POWERS TOGETHER.





LIKE YOUR FRIENDS?

EXACTLY.



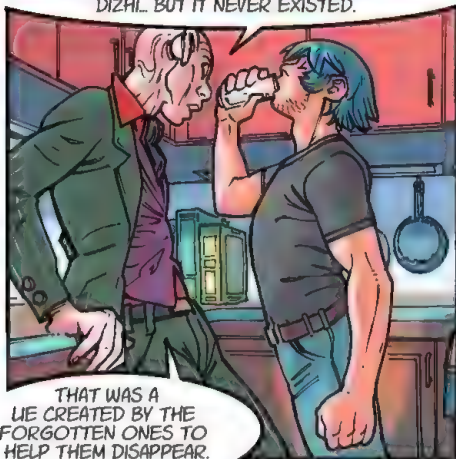
BLEGH...

THEN TELL ME WHY THE TWELVE ZODIAC DIZHI BELIEVED THE OTHER TWELVE WERE DEAD.



THERE WAS A LEGEND THAT THERE WAS AN ULTIMATE POWER ABLE TO DESTROY A DIZHI. BUT IT NEVER EXISTED.

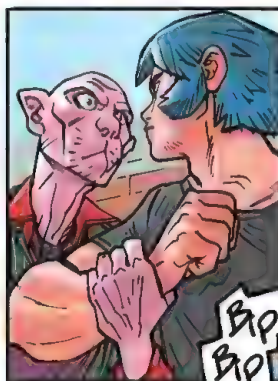
AND WHAT? YOU NEED AN ORACLE TO ANNOUNCE THEIR RETURN?



THAT WAS A LIE CREATED BY THE FORGOTTEN ONES TO HELP THEM DISAPPEAR.



YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE LIGHT OF THIS. WE'RE YOUR ONLY HOPE.



BIP BIP



BIP BIP B...

YEAH.



IT'S EWA. COME QUICKLY.



WHAT'S WRONG?

KATIA IS DYING.

WHAT?! WHAT HAPPENED?

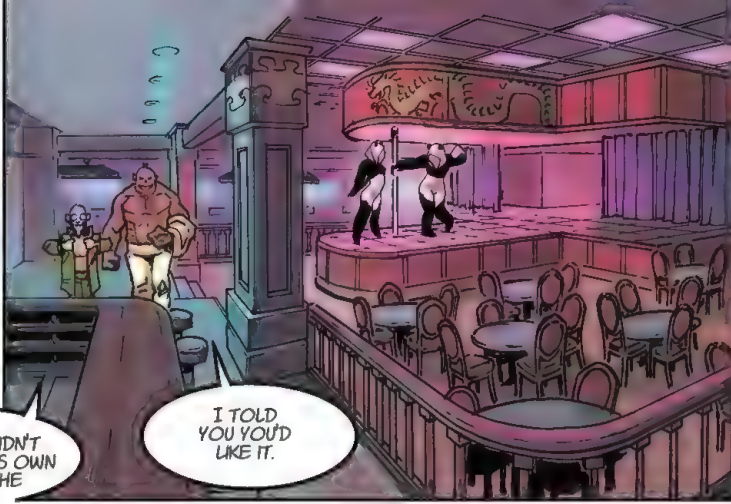
I. I THINK YOU KILLED HER...

I. I'M ON MY WAY.



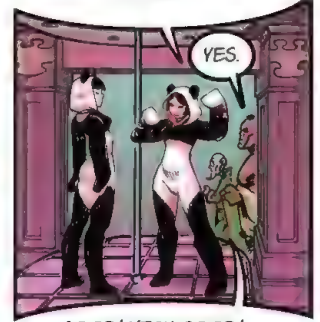
HA HA HA

AND TOMASSINI DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS OWN SON WAS THE TIGER?



I TOLD YOU YOU'D LIKE IT.

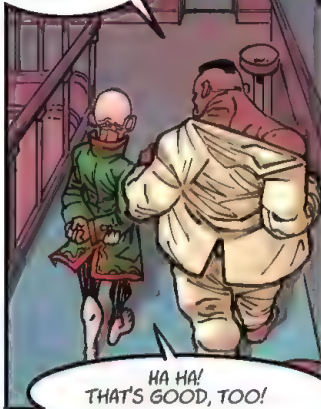
SO YOU KILLED THE FATHER SO THE SON WOULD RETURN?



YES.

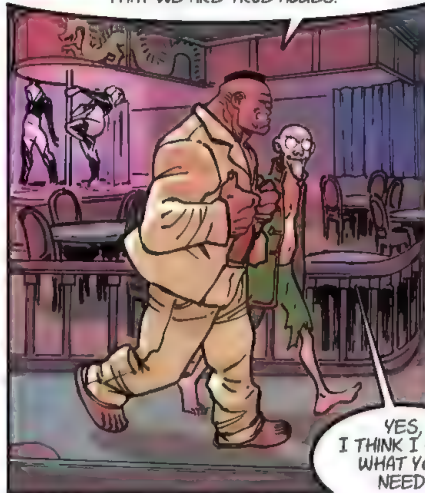
GOOD! VERY GOOD!

AND BY GETTING RID OF TOMASSINI, YOU NOW HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE BLACK MARKET.



HA HA! THAT'S GOOD, TOO!

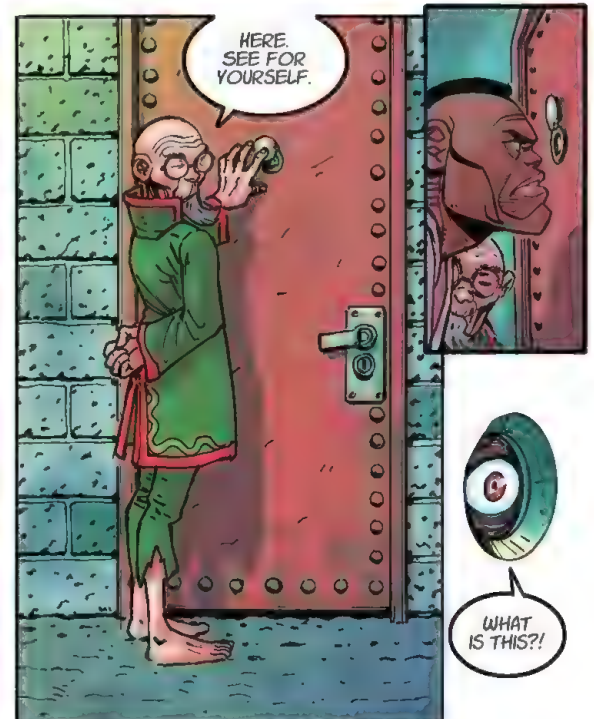
SO YOU CAN SEE THAT I'VE MADE THE FIRST STEP. IT'S NOW YOUR TURN TO SHOW THAT WE ARE TRUE ALLIES.



YES, I THINK I HAVE WHAT YOU NEED.



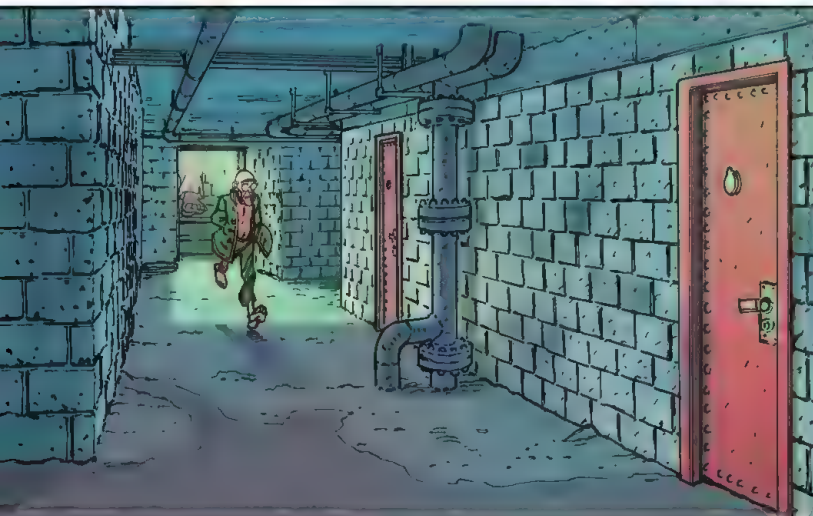
COME.



HERE. SEE FOR YOURSELF.



WHAT IS THIS?!





YOU HAVE THE RAT?

YES, FOR SOME TIME NOW.



WHY HAVEN'T YOU ABSORBED HIM?

BECAUSE THE RAT MUST HAVE A HOST ALL TO HIMSELF. HE'LL DESTROY YOU FROM THE INSIDE. HE IS USELESS.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET HIM?

INDEED!



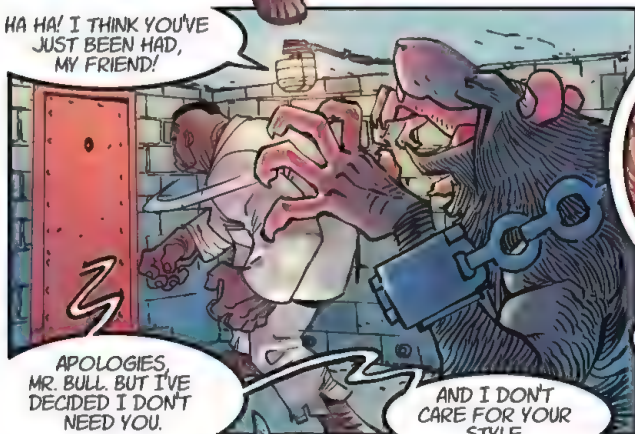
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR SO LONG, AND HERE YOU ARE!



CLAC!

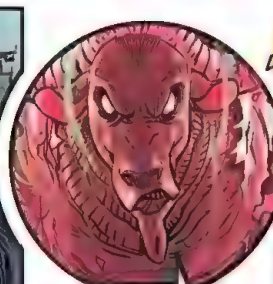
WHAT'S GOING ON?

HA HA! I THINK YOU'VE JUST BEEN HAD, MY FRIEND!



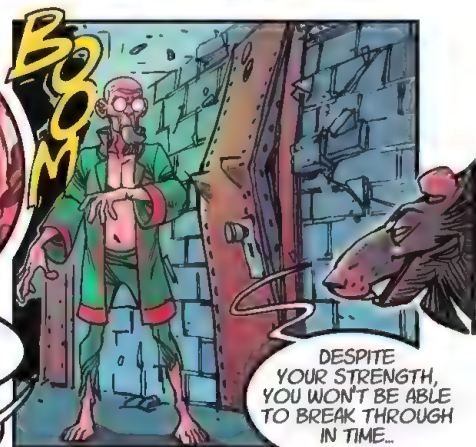
APOLOGIES, MR. BULL. BUT I'VE DECIDED I DON'T NEED YOU.

AND I DON'T CARE FOR YOUR STYLE.



YOU'VE JUST MADE THE WRONG ENEMY...

I DON'T THINK SO.



BOOM

DESPITE YOUR STRENGTH, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH IN TIME...

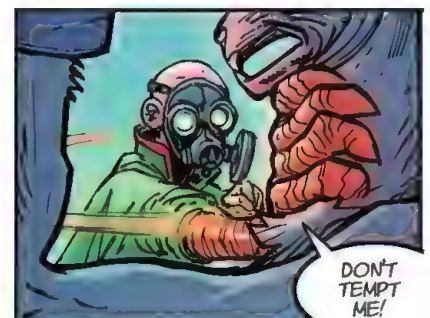
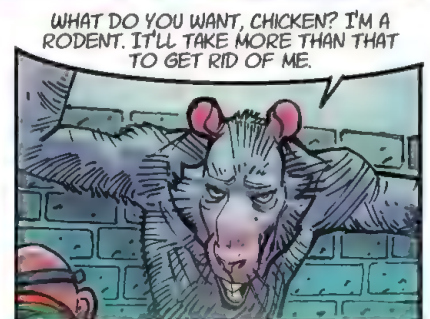
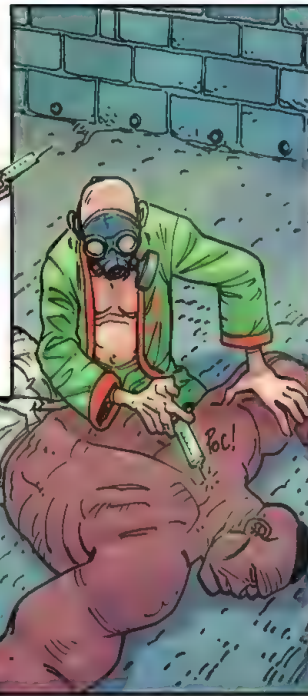
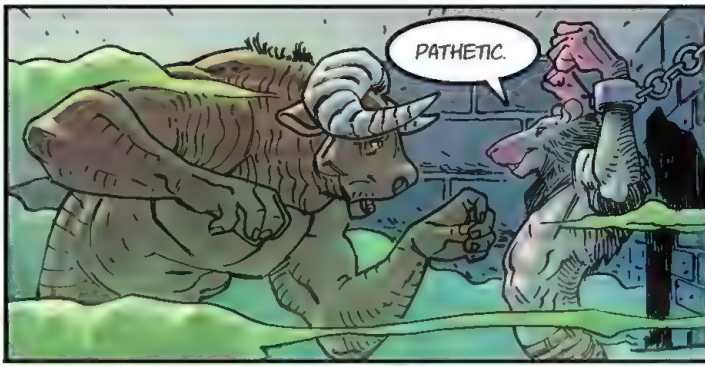


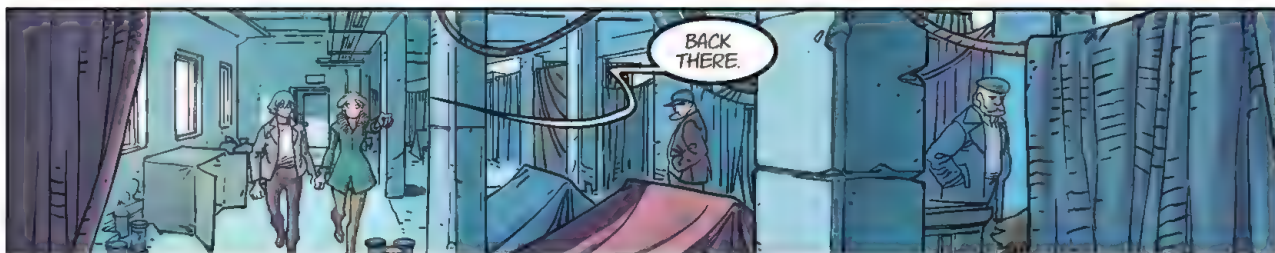
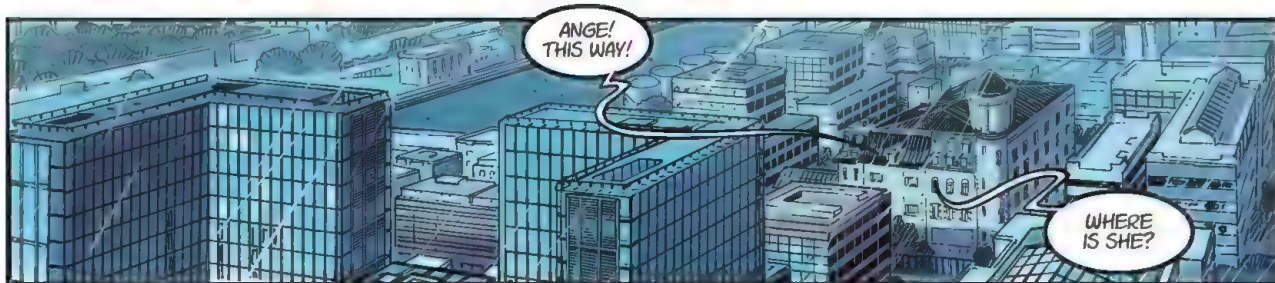
WHAT THE HELL?

"HELL IS EMPTY. ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE!"

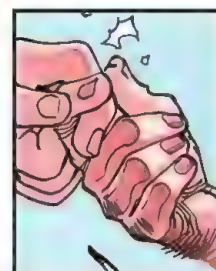
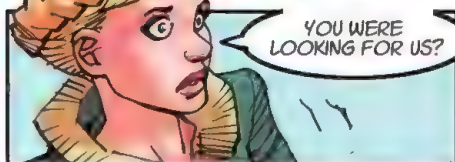


YOU SHUT UP!

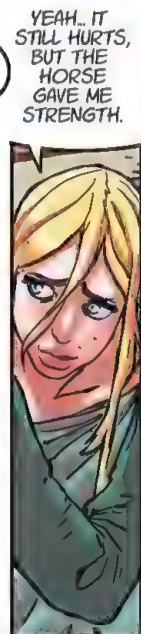
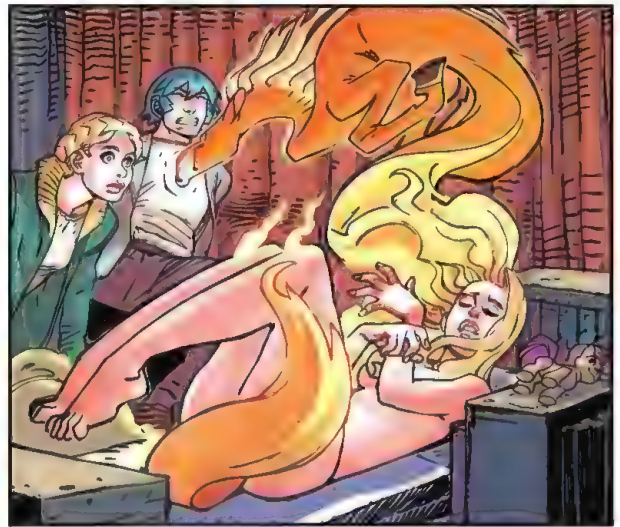
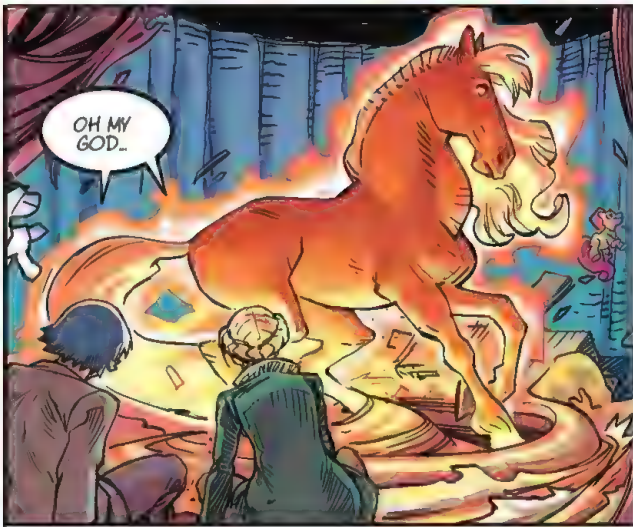
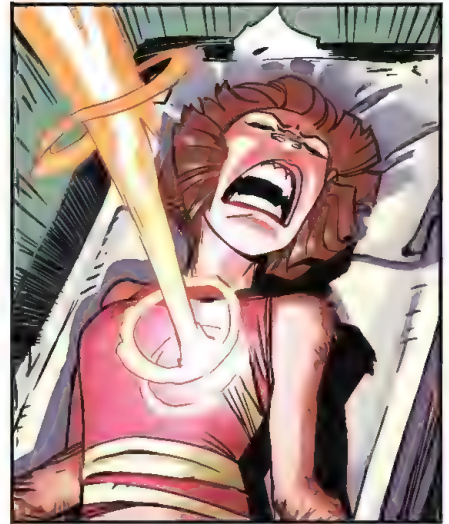
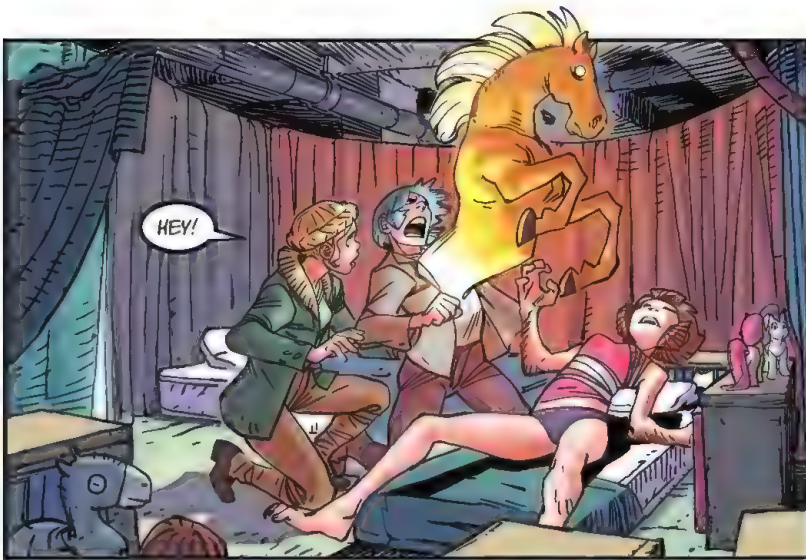


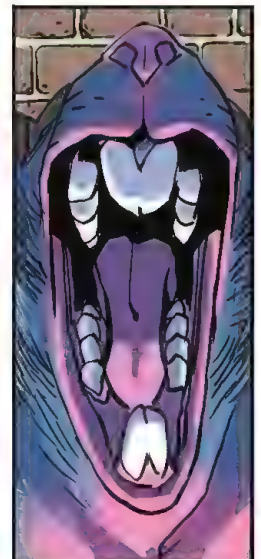
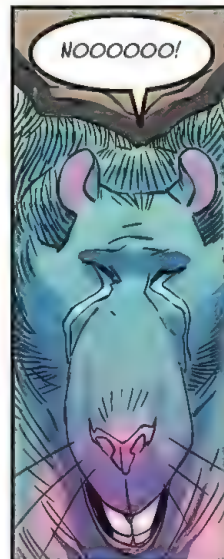
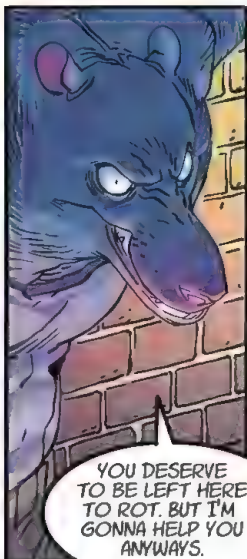
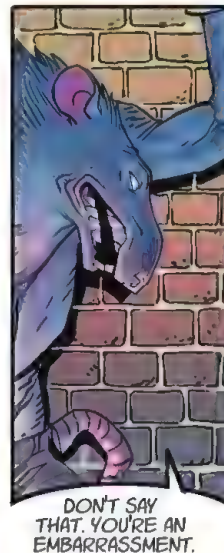
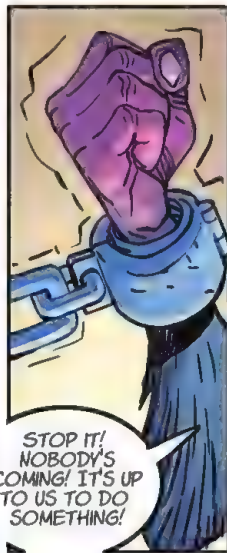
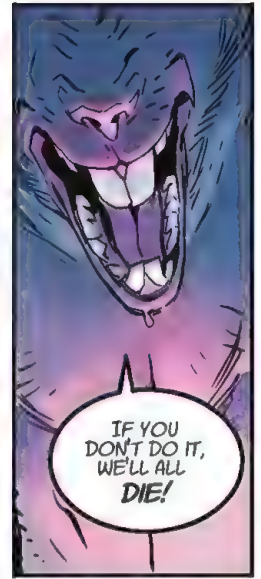
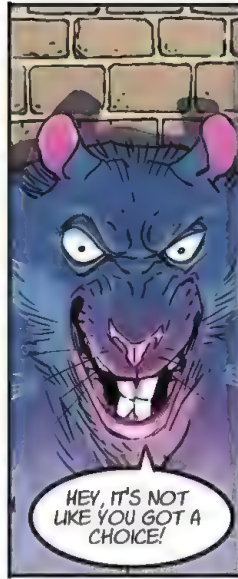
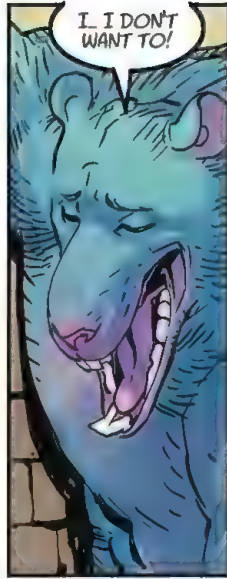


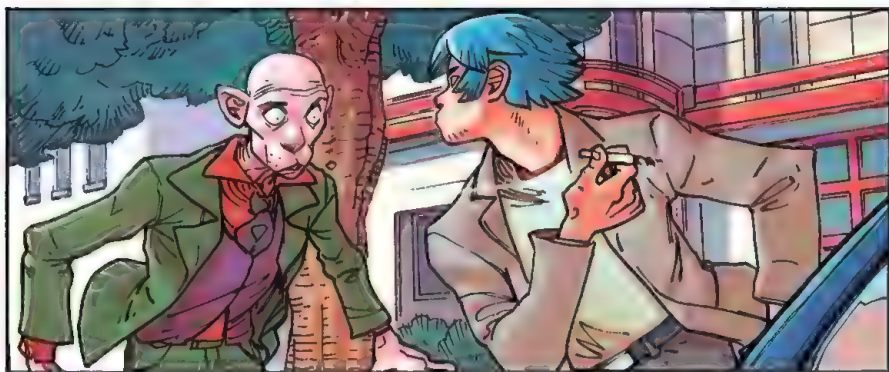
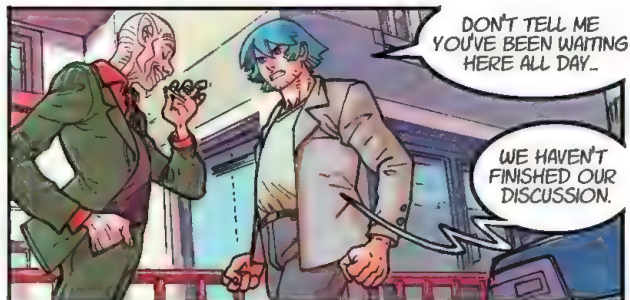
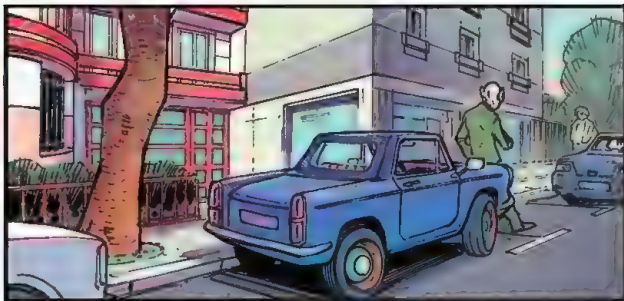
I NEVER THOUGHT FOR THIRTY SECONDS YOU WERE ALSO A DIZHL



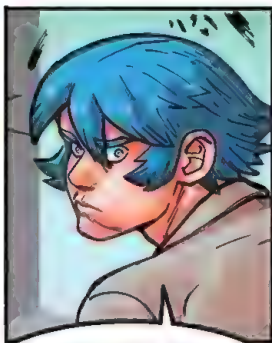
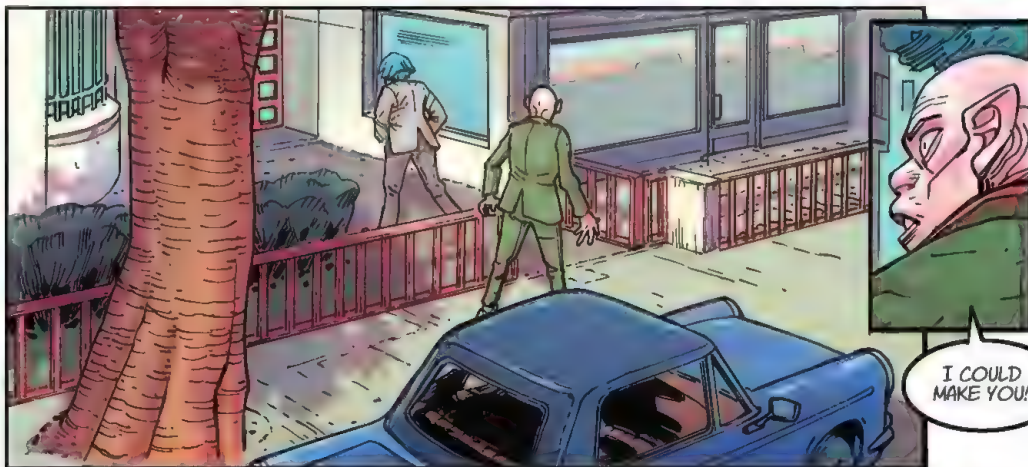
HAH, THE FEVER IS MAKING YOU DELUSIONAL.





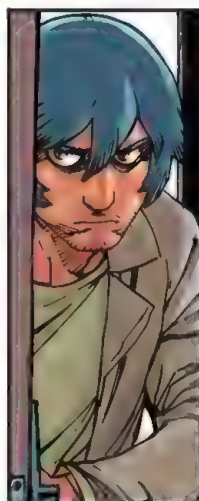


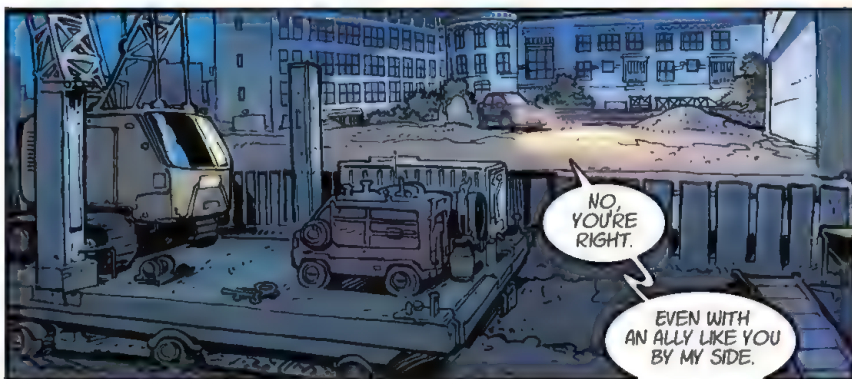
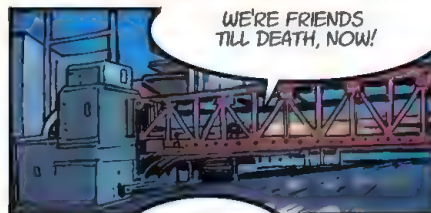
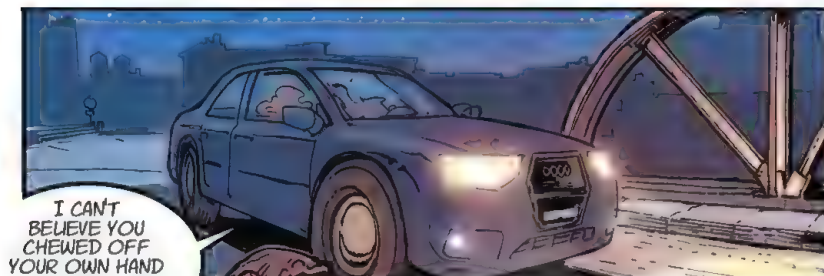
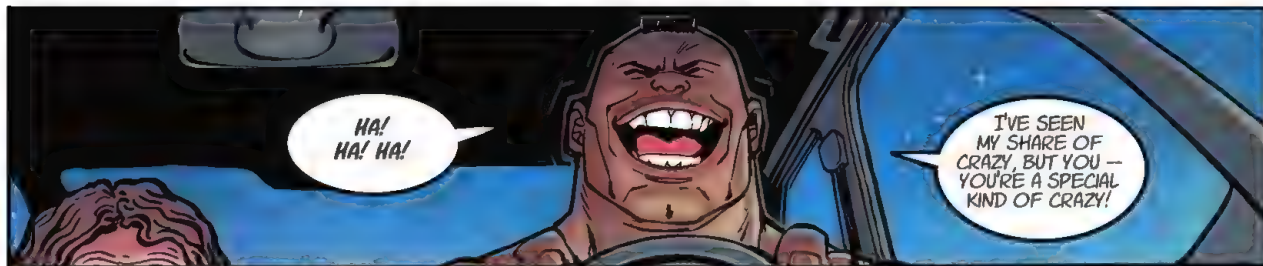
NOT GONNA HAPPEN. I'LL NEVER GO BACK TO THE STATES. YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.



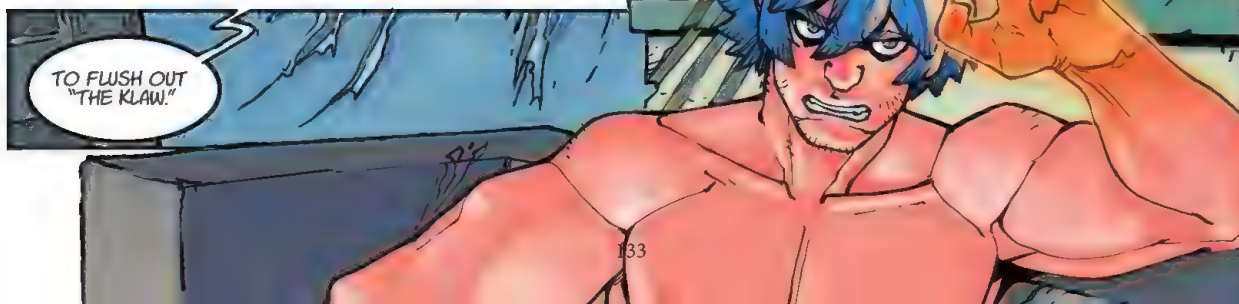
YOU COULD TRY... BUT I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT. NOBODY WANTS TO SEE ME ANGRY.

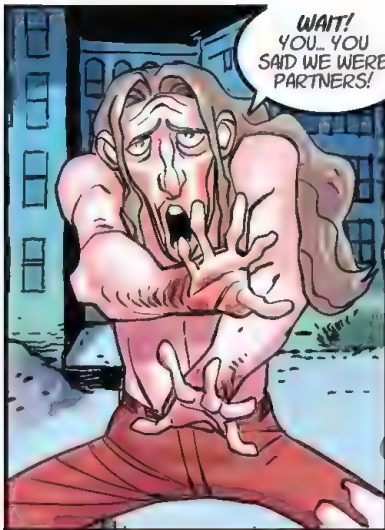












WAIT!
YOU... YOU
SAID WE WERE
PARTNERS!



I DIDN'T SAY
PARTNERS. I SAID ALLIES.
I MEANT THAT I WOULD
USE YOU TO ACHIEVE
MY GOALS.

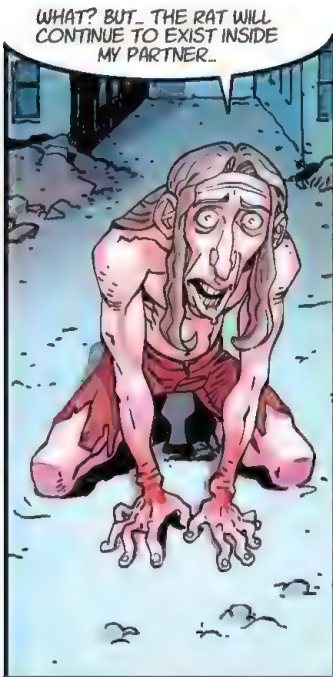


TH-THAT'S NOT
WHAT ALLIES
MEANS!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU AND
THE ONLY THING THAT BOTHERS
YOU IS MY GRAMMAR?

YOU CAN'T
KILL ME! THE RAT
DIZHI IS A REALLY
BAD FIT FOR
YOU!

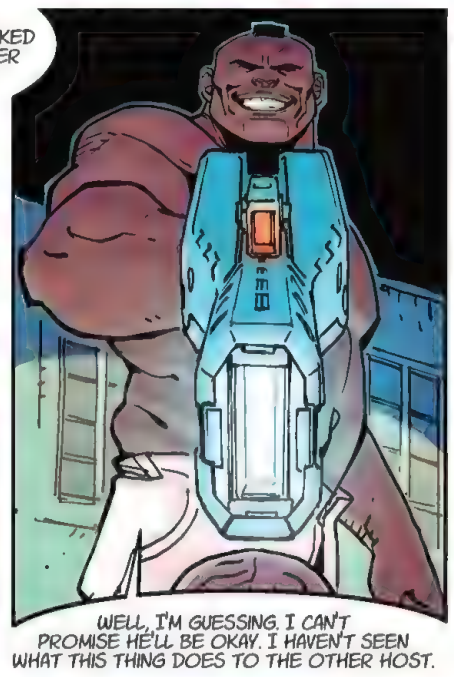
WHO SAID
I WANTED IT
FOR MYSELF?



WHAT? BUT... THE RAT WILL
CONTINUE TO EXIST INSIDE
MY PARTNER...



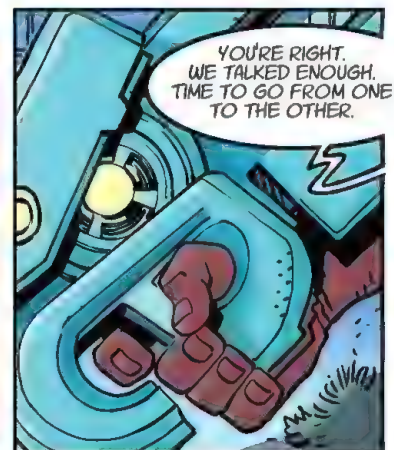
NOT WITH THIS
LITTLE BEAUTY. SEE, IT'S
LIKE A VACUUM -- ONCE I'VE SUCKED
UP YOUR TOTEM, YOUR PARTNER
WON'T HAVE ANY POWER...



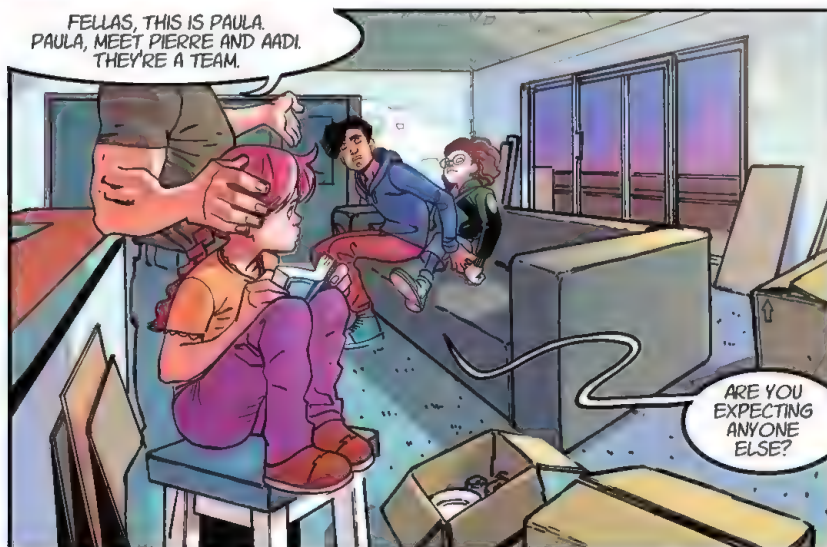
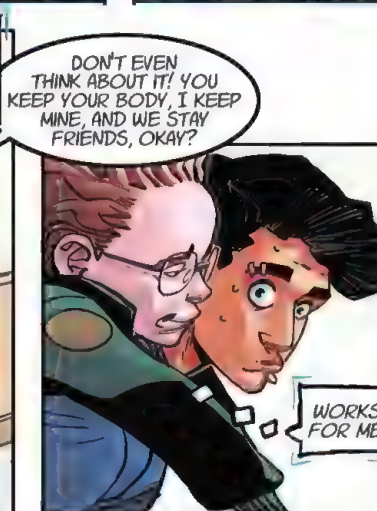
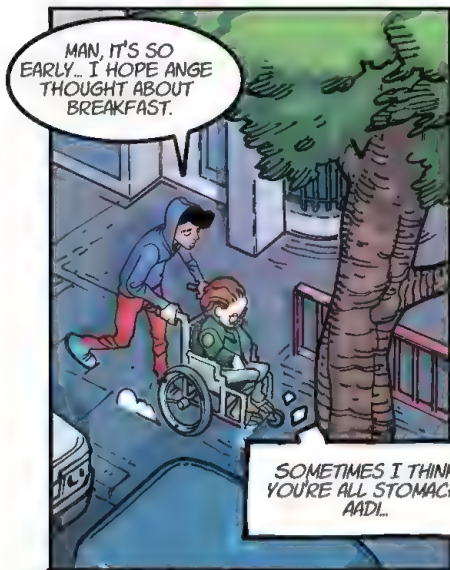
WELL, I'M GUESSING. I CAN'T
PROMISE HE'LL BE OKAY. I HAVEN'T SEEN
WHAT THIS THING DOES TO THE OTHER HOST.

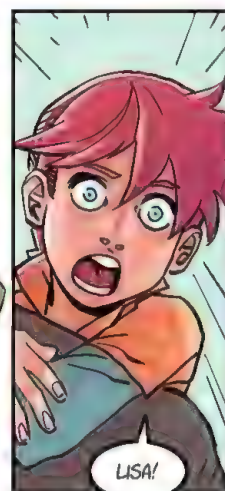
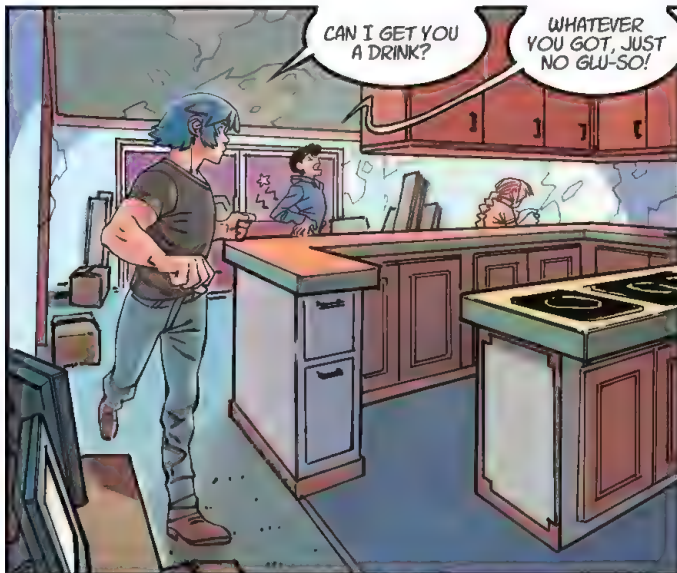


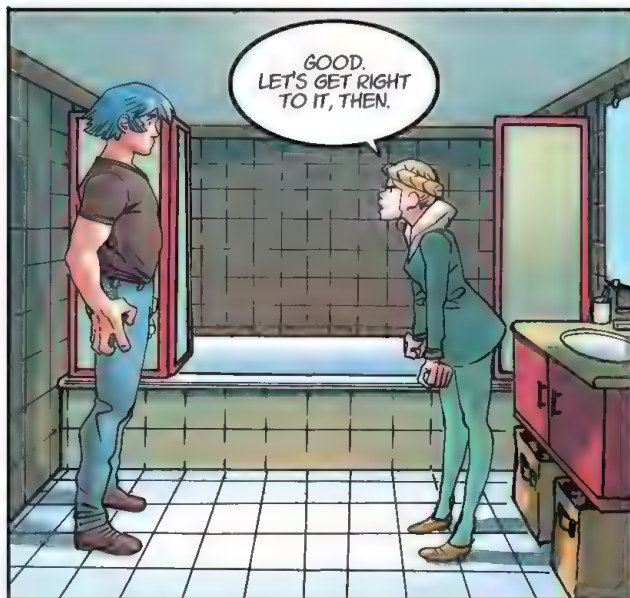
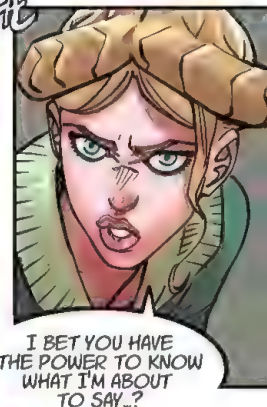
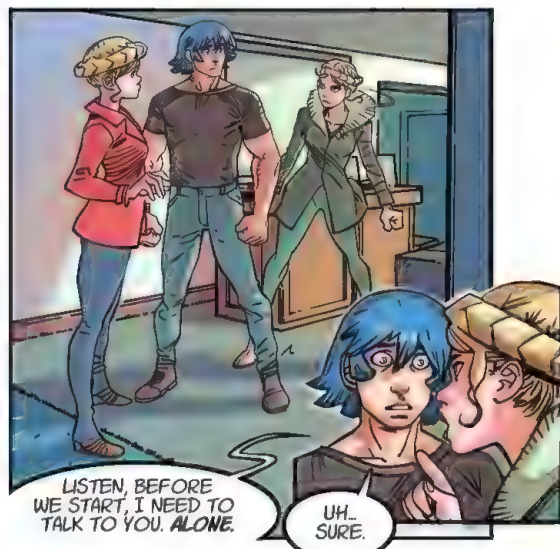
WHAT ABOUT
YOUR RANT ABOUT
FRIENDSHIP? LIFE
UNTIL DEATH?

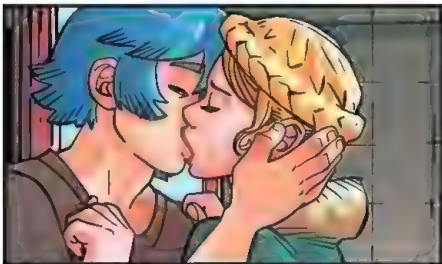
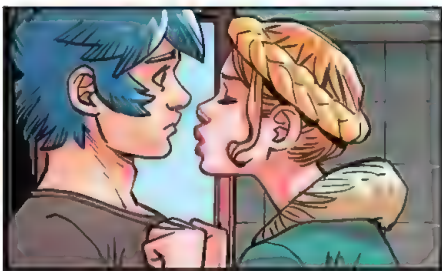


YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE TALKED ENOUGH.
TIME TO GO FROM ONE
TO THE OTHER.

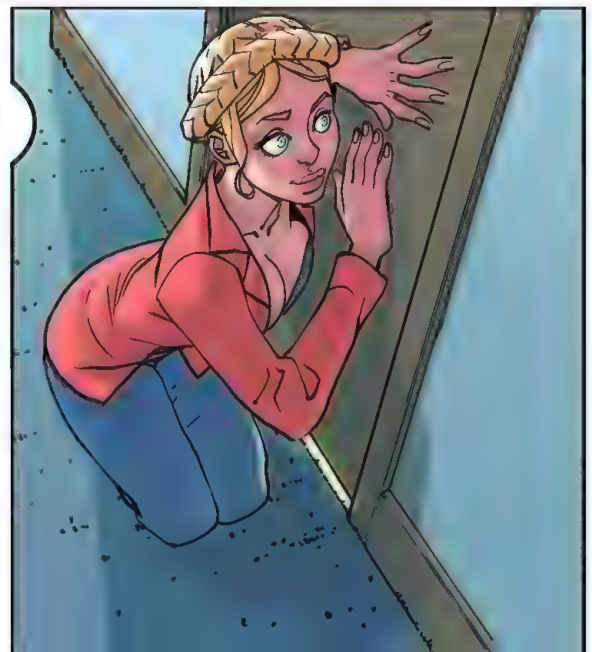
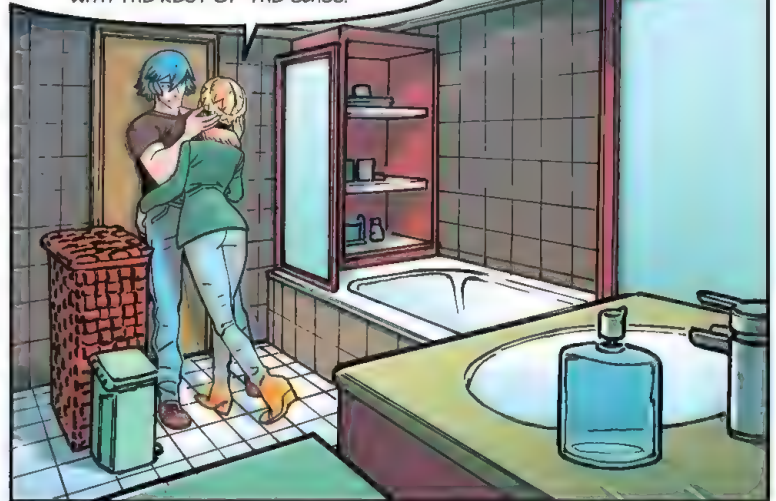








I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT THE FIRST NIGHT WE MET, WHEN YOU CAME TO GET DRINKS WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS.





FIRST, I SUGGEST EVERYONE TURN INTO THEIR TOTEM SO WE ALL KNOW WHO IS WHO.



IF I MAY INTERJECT -- THAT'S STUPID. PLUS, YOU'RE GOING TO FORCE US ALL TO GET THE SAME URGES YOU GOT IN CHINA.

IT'S A BAD IDEA NOT TO SHARE A DIZHI, YOU SAID SO YOURSELF.

THE URGES FROM JUST ONE TOTEM SHOULDN'T BE ANY KIND OF PROBLEM. BESIDES --

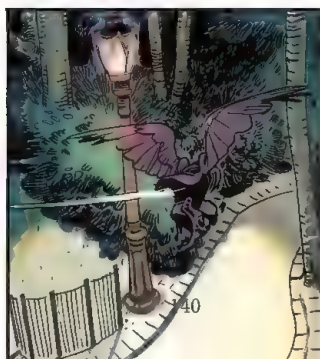
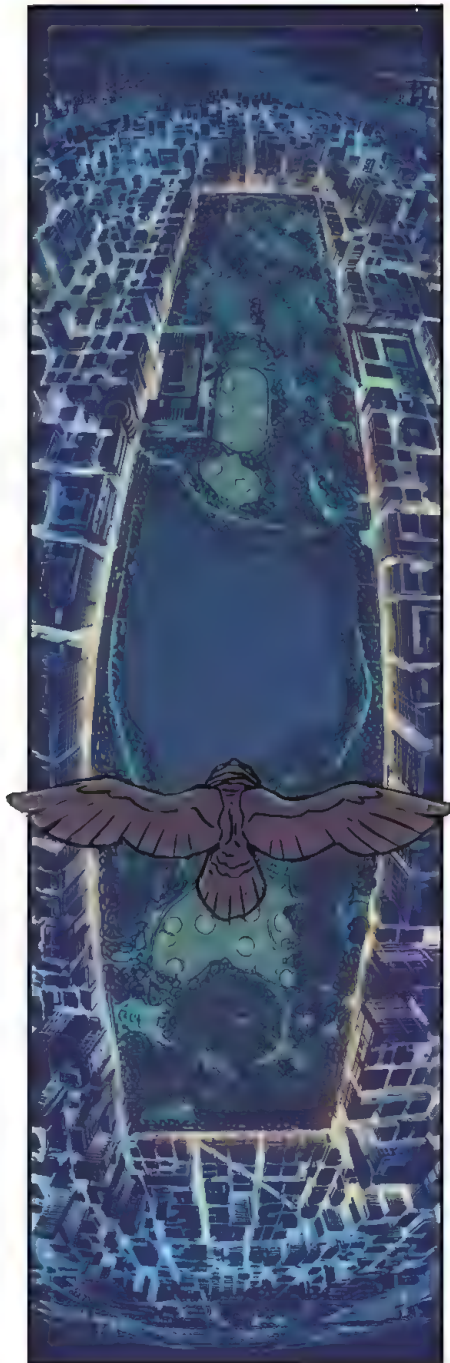
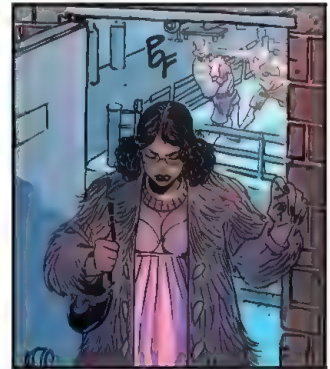
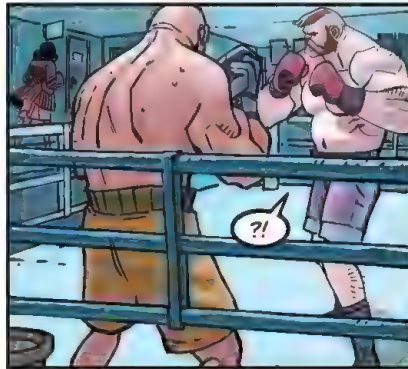
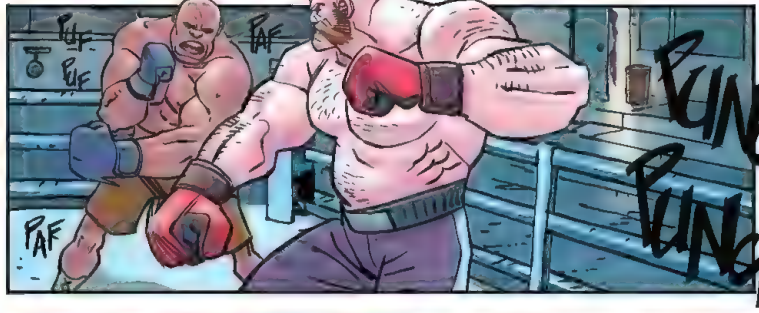


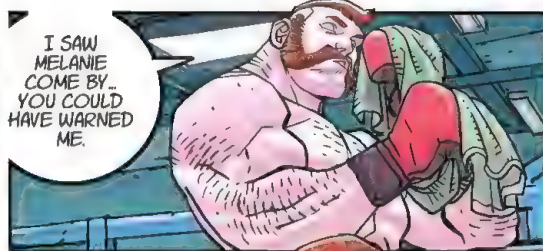
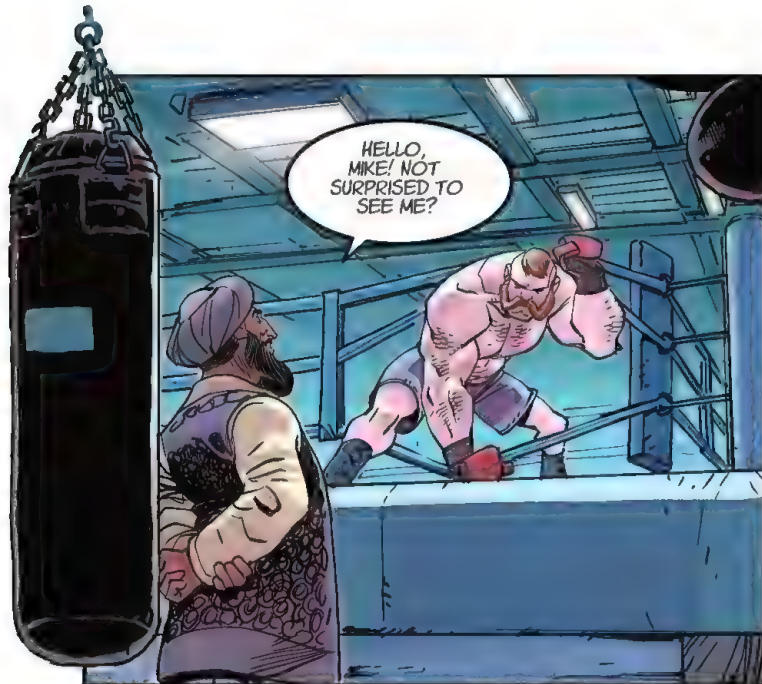
NO, THERE'S A BETTER WAY!

WE BECOME PARTNERS WITH EACH OTHER, LINKED THROUGH A DIFFERENT DIZHI. IT HELPS ANGE, AND WE ALL BECOME STRONGER.



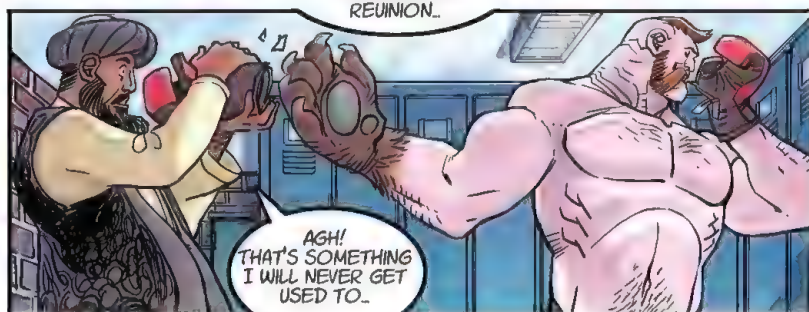
NEW YORK,
THE NEXT DAY

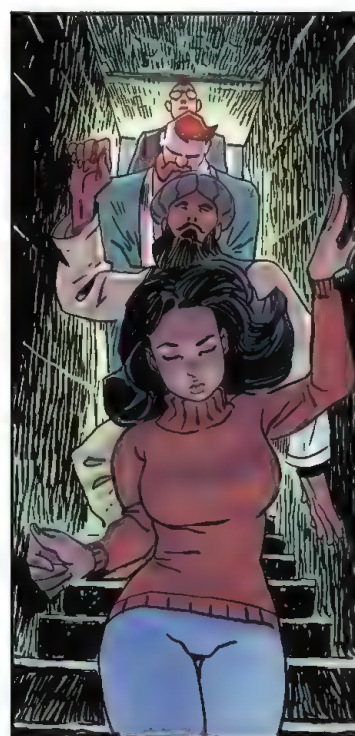
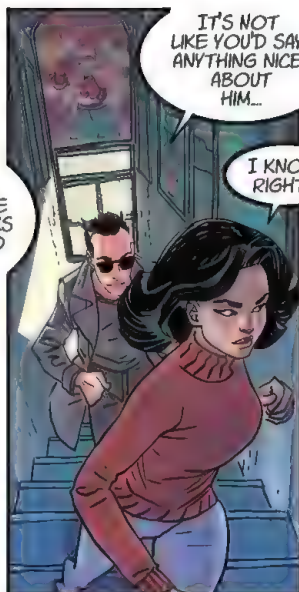




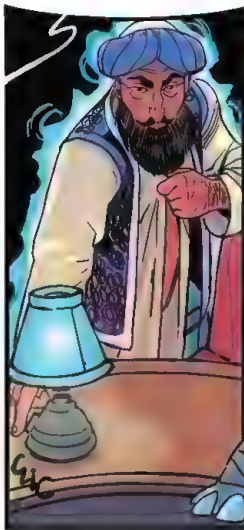
WHY BOTHER? EVERYONE KNOWS YOU NEVER LEAVE THIS PLACE.

SO? I'M A BEAR IN TRAINING.

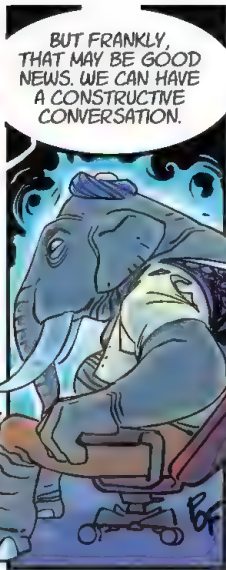




PLEASE FORGIVE SAMIR.
HE HAS BEEN DELAYED.



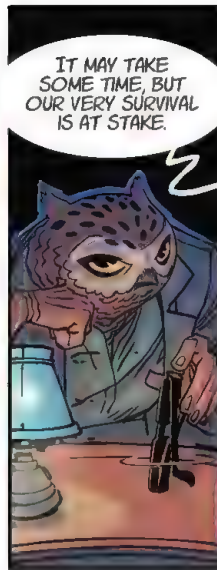
BUT FRANKLY,
THAT MAY BE GOOD
NEWS. WE CAN HAVE
A CONSTRUCTIVE
CONVERSATION.



BECAUSE WE
WILL NOT LEAVE THIS
TABLE UNTIL WE HAVE
COME TO A UNANIMOUS
AGREEMENT.



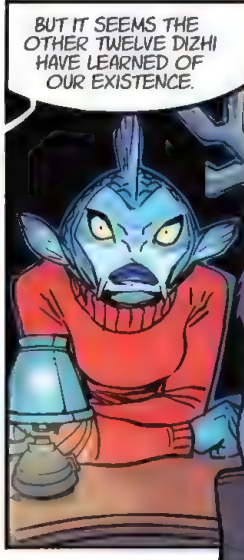
IT MAY TAKE
SOME TIME, BUT
OUR VERY SURVIVAL
IS AT STAKE.



WE'VE REMAINED HIDDEN
FOR A VERY LONG TIME,
HOPING THAT WOULD
ENSURE PEACE.



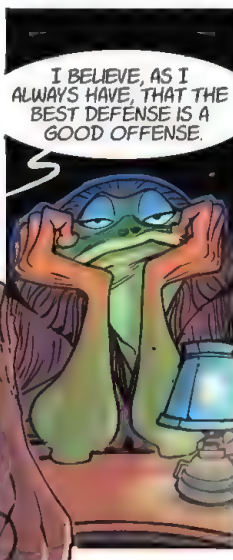
BUT IT SEEMS THE
OTHER TWELVE DIZHI
HAVE LEARNED OF
OUR EXISTENCE.



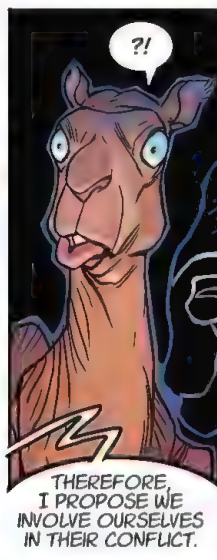
IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF
TIME NOW.



I BELIEVE, AS I
ALWAYS HAVE, THAT THE
BEST DEFENSE IS A
GOOD OFFENSE.



?!



THEREFORE,
I PROPOSE WE
INVOLVE OURSELVES
IN THEIR CONFLICT.



WHAT?
THAT GOES AGAINST
EVERYTHING WE'VE
DONE!

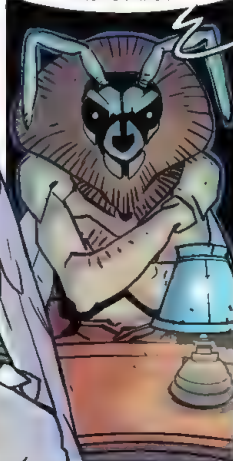
TIMES HAVE CHANGED. IF WE STAY UNITED,
AND TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE, WE MIGHT
HAVE A CHANCE AT VICTORY.



THIS
IS INSANE!



BEFORE WE GO INTO
THE DETAILS, LET US
FIRST SEE WHERE
WE STAND.

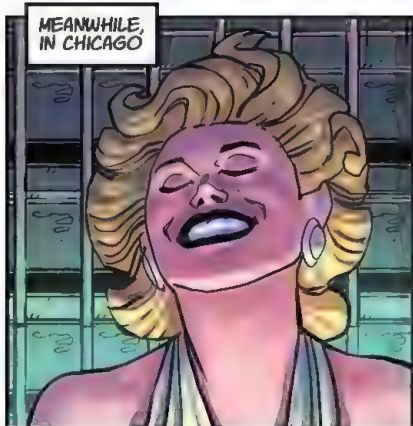


A VOTE.

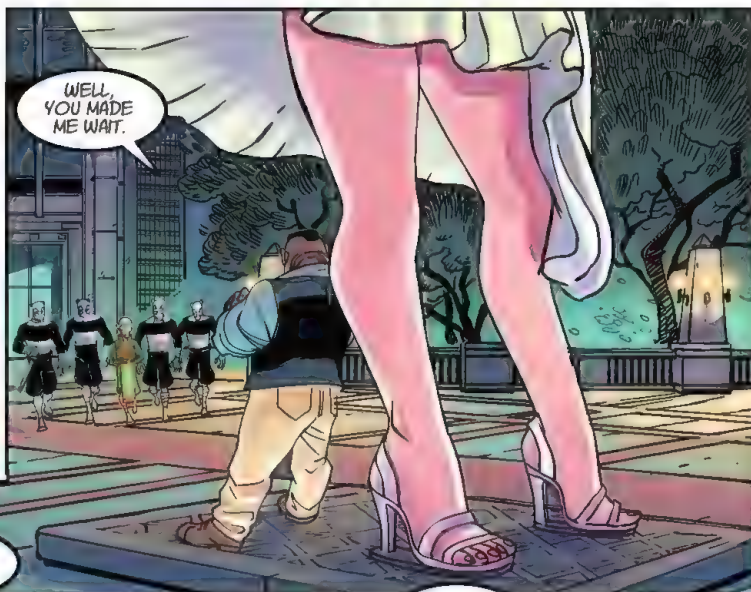


THOSE
IN FAVOR
OF THE
WAR?





MEANWHILE,
IN CHICAGO



WELL,
YOU MADE
ME WAIT.

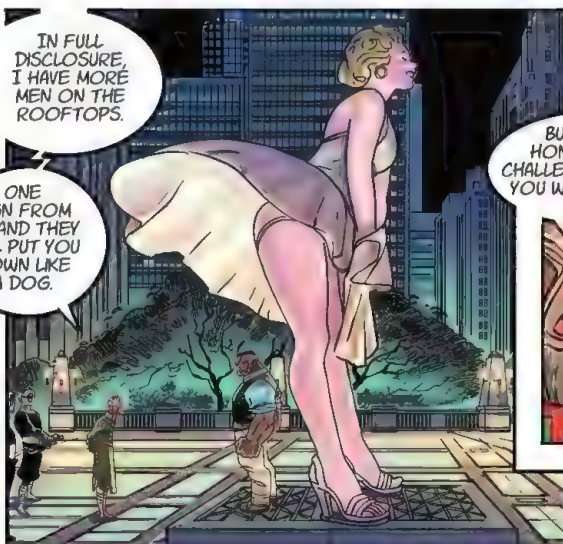
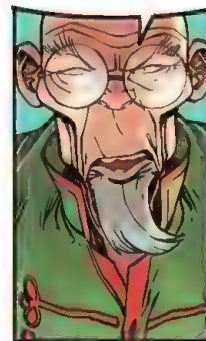
I FOUND YOUR
CHALLENGE TO A DUEL
QUITE... DISTRACTING.

HOW COULD
I REFUSE?



YOU
BROUGHT
BACK-UP
DANCERS.

AS ODD AS IT MAY SEEM,
WE HAVEN'T ESTABLISHED
MUCH TRUST BETWEEN
US. I THOUGHT TO
PLAY IT SAFE.



IN FULL
DISCLOSURE,
I HAVE MORE
MEN ON THE
ROOFTOPS.

ONE
SIGN FROM
ME AND THEY
WILL PUT YOU
DOWN LIKE
A DOG.

BUT I WILL
HONOR YOUR
CHALLENGE AND KILL
YOU WITH MY OWN
HANDS.



WHERE
SHALL WE
DO THIS?



WHY
NOT RIGHT
HERE?



YOU FOOL!

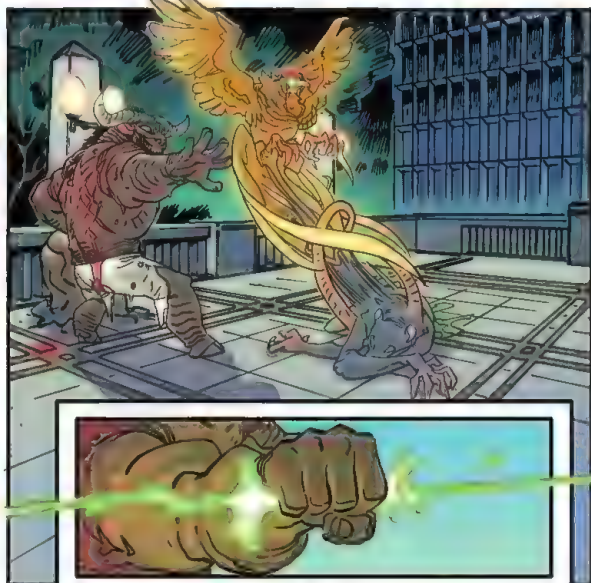
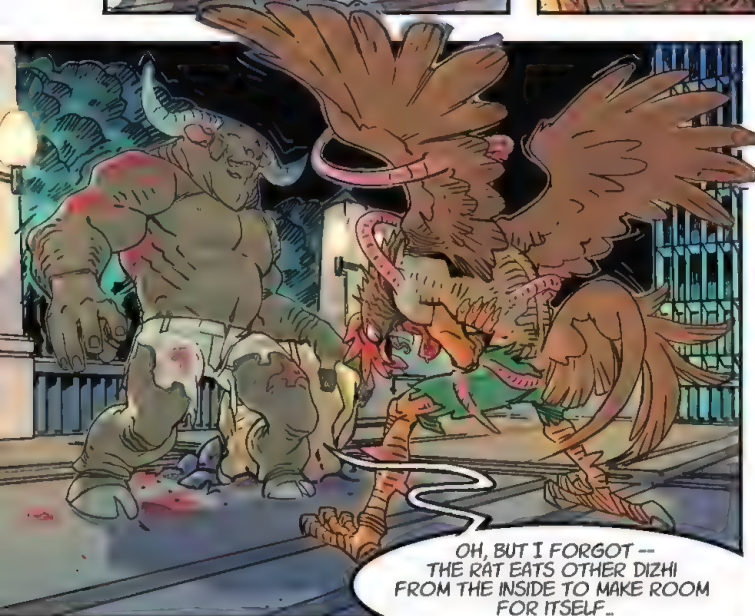
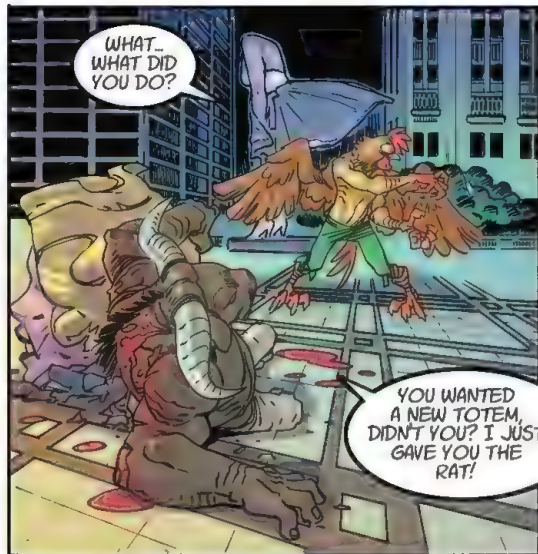
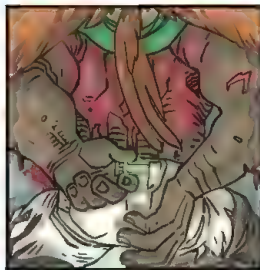
TOMORROW, YOUR DEATH WILL BE AT THE TOP OF THE NEWS!

LET'S END THIS QUICKLY.

BONG

AP
KRY
KRY
KRY

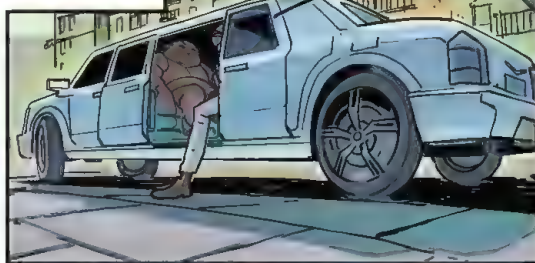
AND NOW, YOU DIE!





YOU'LL BE
HAPPY, SAMIR.
EVERYTHING WENT
JUST AS YOU
PREDICTED.

BUT I
DIDN'T THINK
IT WOULD HAPPEN
THIS QUICKLY.

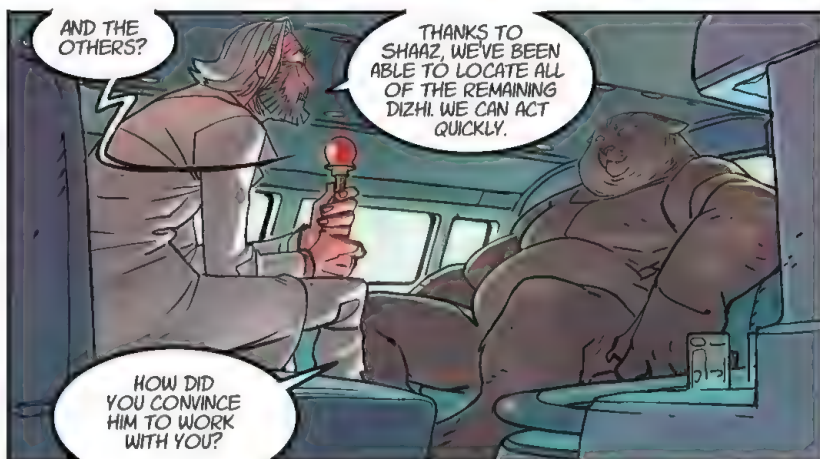


ONCE AROUND THE TABLE,
AND THE VOTE WAS
SETTLED.

THE
INSECT DID
HIS PART?



YES. HE KNEW HOW
TO GET EVERYONE FIRED UP.
IT HELPS THAT THE ZODIAC TWELVE
WERE SO ARROGANT IN THE
PAST.



AND THE
OTHERS?

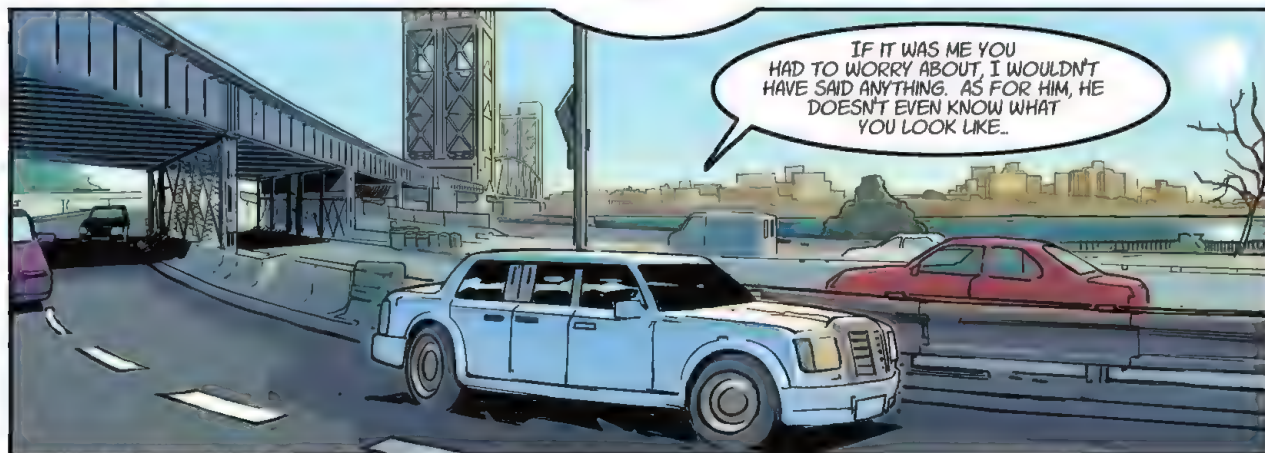
THANKS TO
SHAAZ, WE'VE BEEN
ABLE TO LOCATE ALL
OF THE REMAINING
DIZHI. WE CAN ACT
QUICKLY.

HOW DID
YOU CONVINCE
HIM TO WORK
WITH YOU?



I TOLD HIM
HE'D GET THE CAT
TOTEM BACK FROM
YOU.

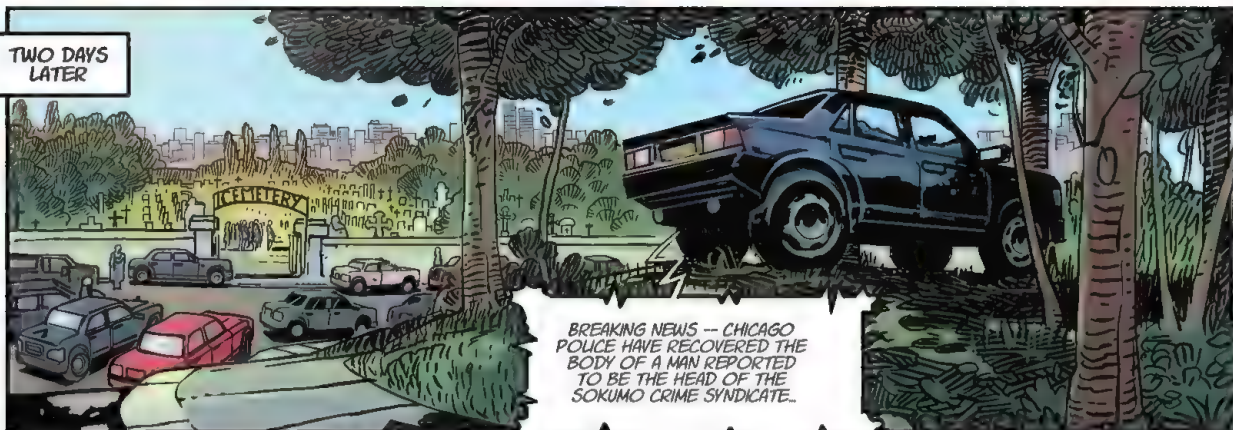
HA!
SHOULD I BE
WORRIED? IF SO,
ABOUT YOU OR
HIM?



IF IT WAS ME YOU
HAD TO WORRY ABOUT, I WOULDN'T
HAVE SAID ANYTHING. AS FOR HIM, HE
DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT
YOU LOOK LIKE.

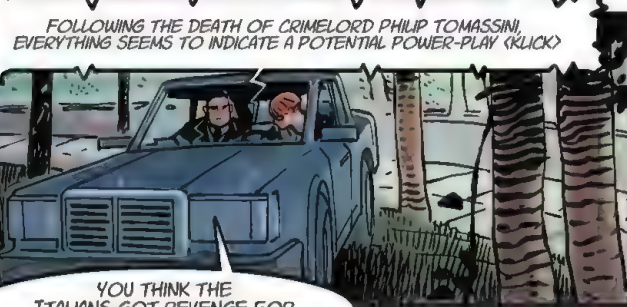


MAY HE REST IN PEACE.



TWO DAYS LATER

BREAKING NEWS — CHICAGO POLICE HAVE RECOVERED THE BODY OF A MAN REPORTED TO BE THE HEAD OF THE SOKUMO CRIME SYNDICATE.



FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF CRIMELORD PHILIP TOMASSINI, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO INDICATE A POTENTIAL POWER-PLAY (KLUCK)

YOU THINK THE ITALIANS GOT REVENGE FOR TOMASSINI?



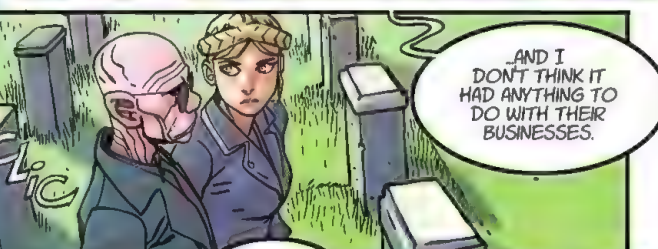
NO, I THINK THERE'S A NEW PLAYER.

A NEW GANG?



Clic

NO, I'M BETTING ON A FREE AGENT...



Clic

AND I DON'T THINK IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEIR BUSINESSES.

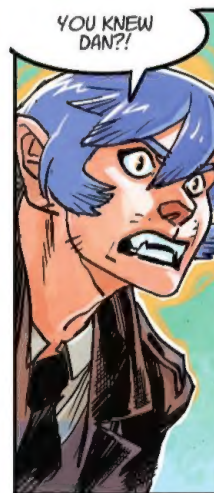
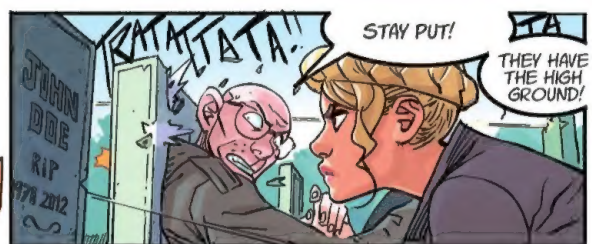


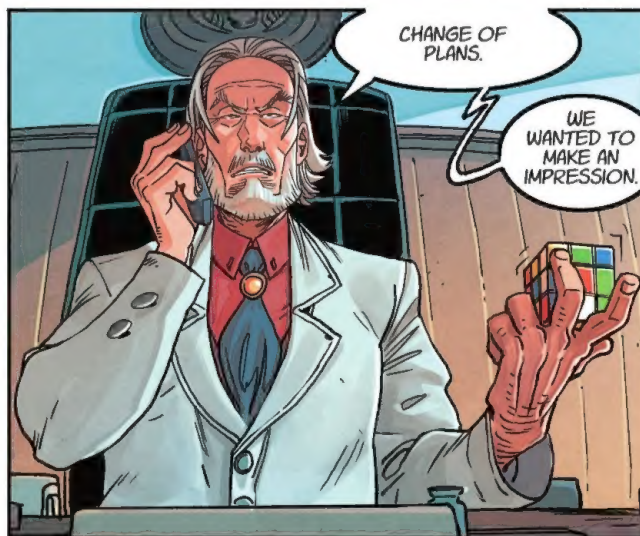
Clic

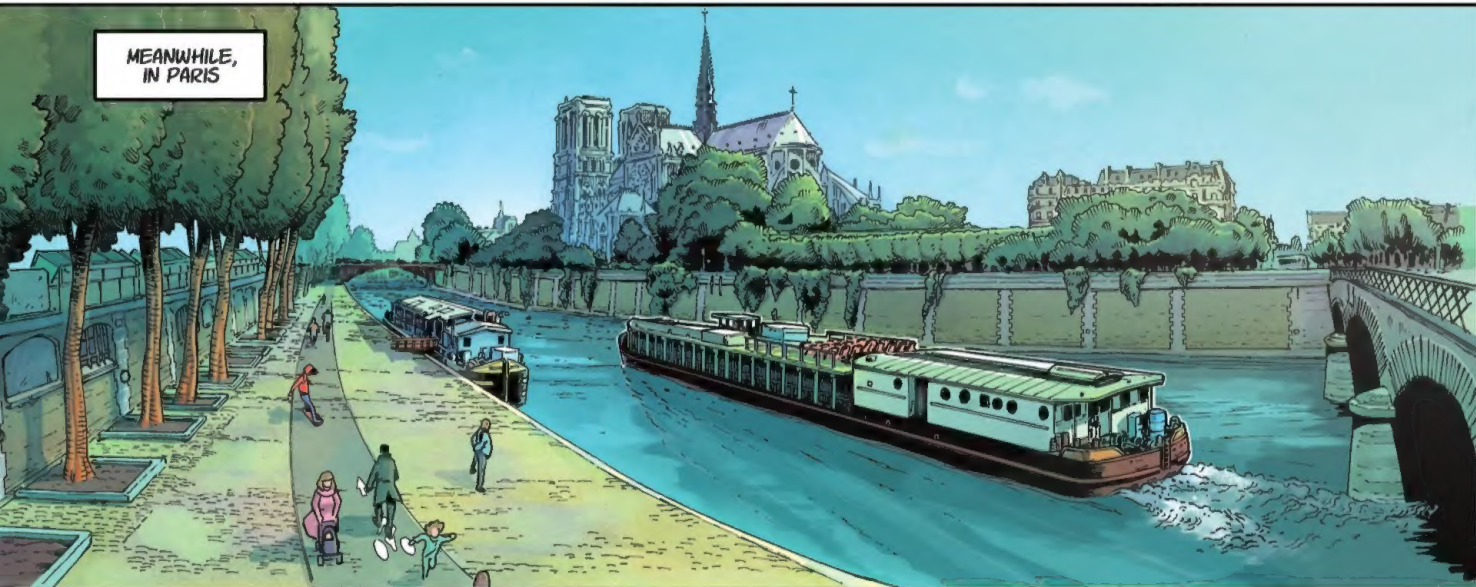
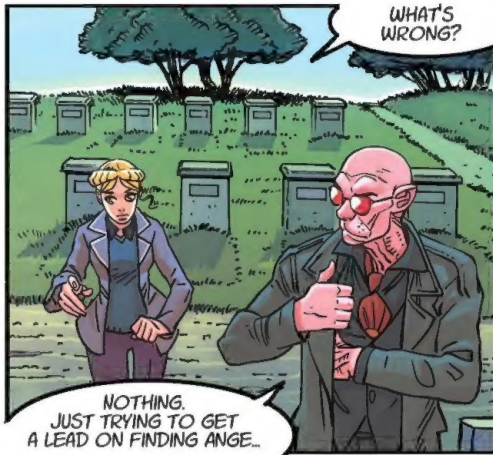
SO WHAT'S LEFT?

OH NO —









END OF THE SECOND CYCLE